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MASTER OF KUNG FU

SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED
100TH
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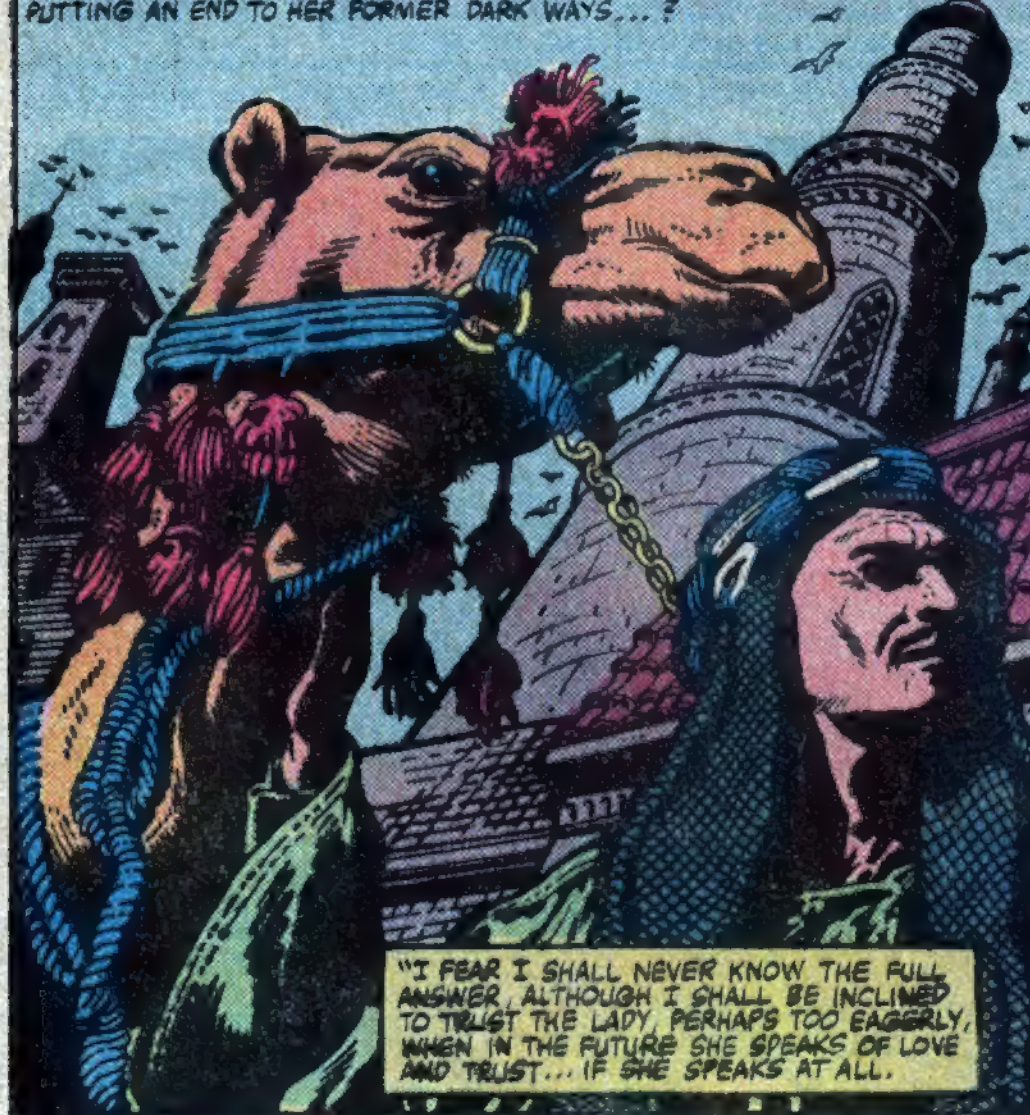
RED OF FANG AND CLAW ALL LOVE LOST



MASTER OF KUNG FU® Vol. 1, No. 100, May, 1961. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1961 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$7.00. Foreign, \$8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

THEN-~~THE~~ IMMORTAL CARAVAN

FROM THE JOURNAL OF SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH, 23 MAY, 1932: "WAS IT ANIMAL CUNNING AND TREACHERY, MASKED AS A WOMAN'S LOVE, WHICH HAS BROUGHT US HALFWAY ROUND THE GLOBE TO THESE TEEMING STREETS OF CAIRO? OR WAS THE MASK SHED THREE NIGHTS PAST, TO REVEAL A SINCERE FACE OF BEAUTY AND TRUTH? HAS SHE ACTUALLY REFORMED, PUTTING AN END TO HER FORMER DARK WAYS...?"



"I FEAR I SHALL NEVER KNOW THE FULL ANSWER, ALTHOUGH I SHALL BE INCLINED TO TRUST THE LADY, PERHAPS TOO EAGERLY, WHEN IN THE FUTURE SHE SPEAKS OF LOVE AND TRUST... IF SHE SPEAKS AT ALL."

"IT IS OVER NOW, AND ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE GHOST OF IT, FLOWING THROUGH THIS PEN ONTO THE PAGES OF THIS JOURNAL."



"APPARENTLY, I HAVE ACHIEVED VICTORY. DIFFICULT, THEN, TO EXPLAIN WHY MY SPIRIT FEELS SO CRUSHED, MY HEART SO TORN..."



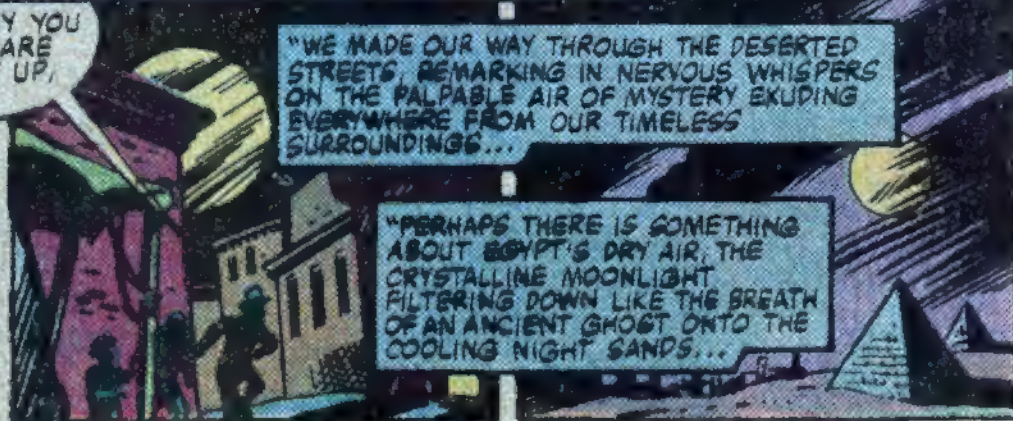
"I BROUGHT PETRIE, OF COURSE, AS WELL AS OUR NEW COLLEAGUE LYMAN LEEKS, A STOUT CHAP UTTERLY DEVOTED TO EVERYTHING ENGLAND STANDS FOR. WITH A THOUSAND LIKE HIM AND PETRIE, I DARE SAY, I COULD RECAPTURE ALL OF BRITAIN'S PAST GLORY WITHIN A MONTH."

I STILL SAY IT'S A TRAP, NAYLAND.

WHICH IS WHY YOU AND PETRIE ARE BACKING ME UP, LEEKS.



"WE MADE OUR WAY THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS, REMARKING IN NERVOUS WHISPERS ON THE PALPABLE AIR OF MYSTERY EXUDING EVERYWHERE FROM OUR TIMELESS SURROUNDINGS..."



"PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT EGYPT'S DRY AIR, THE CRYSTALLINE MOONLIGHT FILTERING DOWN LIKE THE BREATH OF AN ANCIENT GHOST ONTO THE COOLING NIGHT SANDS..."

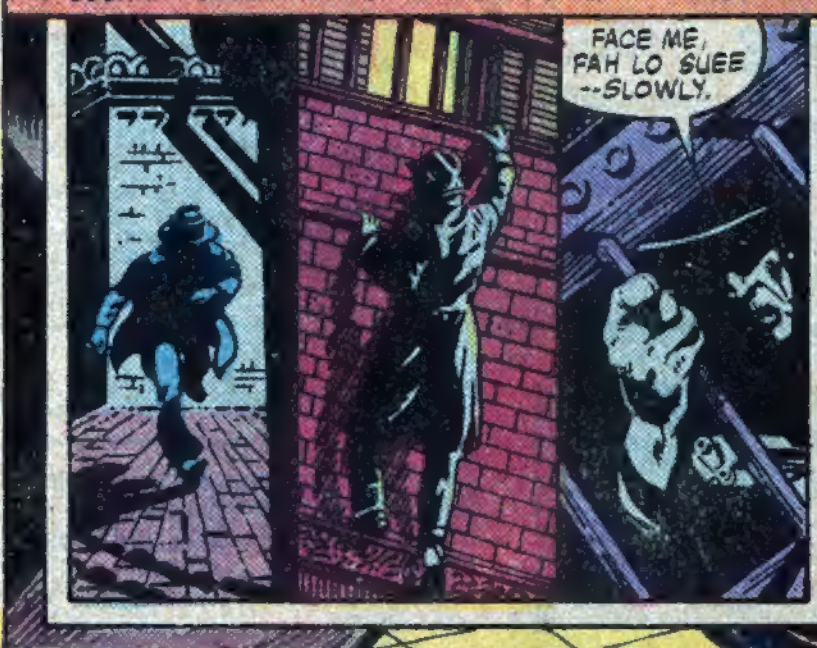
"...SOMETHING THAT MAKES ONE WONDER IF IT IS NOT ALL A DREAM, FROM SOME LOST AND LONG-AGO BLIMBER..."

"A JACKAL SHRIEKED ITS SONG OF BLOOD FROM THE DESERT AS WE REACHED OUR OBJECTIVE..."



WAIT HERE WHILE I GO ON ALONE.

"THE SOFT SCENT OF MIMOSA DUSTED THE AIR AND THE NIGHT SEEMED ETERNAL, MY MISSION INCONSEQUENTIAL AGAINST ITS GREATER MIGHT OF MOON AND SHADOW. REACHING THE BALCONY, I WAS ALMOST OVERWHELMED BY THE SOLITARY SENSUALITY OF THE SCENE, BY THE MUSK RISING FROM HER EVERY PORE.



FACE ME,
FAH LO SUEE
--SLOWLY.



"CANDLEFLAME, SWAYING GENTLY IN THE WARM BREEZE, PICKED GOLD FLECKS FROM THE DEPTHS OF HER JADE-GREEN EYES.

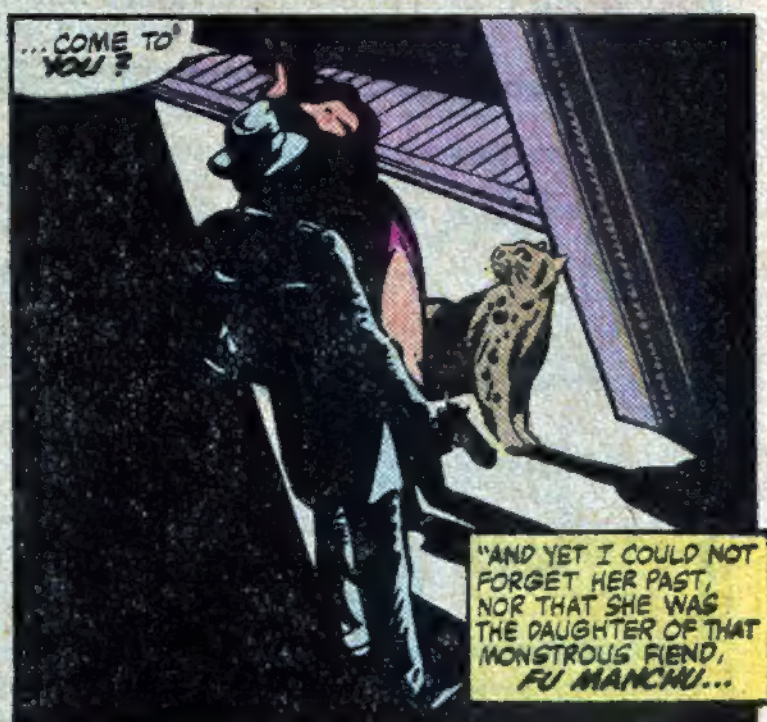
NAYLAND
YOU ANSWERED
MY CALL.

"AND SUDDENLY, THE GUN FELT LIKE A HEAVY PIECE OF CRUEL AND POOLISH EVIL.



"I WANTED TO CAST IT ASIDE AND BEG HER FORGIVENESS, DROWNING IN THE GREEN AND GOLD SEA OF HER GAZE...

COME IN, NAYLAND...
CLOSER TO ME...
OR SHALL I...



...COME TO
YOU?

"AND YET I COULD NOT FORGET HER PAST, NOR THAT SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THAT MONSTROUS FIEND, FU MANCHU...



"SO I STEELED MYSELF, ONCE AGAIN, WITH THE GUN.

I'VE COME ONLY BECAUSE YOU PROMISED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S CURRENT SCHEME.

AND IF THIS IS A TRAP, FAH LO SUEE... KNOW THAT A LARGER ONE IS WAITING TO SPRING SHUT ON YOU.



NO TRAP, NAYLAND SMITH. IT IS THE DEMAND OF MY HEART-- NOTHING MORE.

YOUR HEART?

WE COULD BE LOVERS... AND IF WE DEFEAT MY FATHER, OUR LOVE NEED NEVER AGE, NOR EVEN DIE...



THEN IT'S THE IMMORTALITY SERUM-- THE ELIXIR VITAE?

BUT WHY ARE YOU WILLING TO BETRAY FU MANCHU?

THE WATER OF LIFE, YES, WITH IT, WE COULD LIVE AND LOVE FOREVER.

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Train of Home in Spare Time



AND HOLDS IT OVER MY HEAD TO MAKE ME DANCE TO HIS EVERY WHIM-- ALL THE WHILE PRETENDING MY SERVICE IS BUT THE LOVE OF A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.

FU MANCHU IS BEYOND FATHERHOOD, FATHERHOOD, BEYOND NORMAL LOVE. HE IS A MYTH -- A GIANT EPIC FIGURE SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS RARELY SEEN. SUCH MEN CAN NEVER CONFINED THEMSELVES TO SMALL CONCERNS SUCH AS LOVE OR BIRTH.

AND YOU DON'T LOVE HIM?

AND NOW, MY FATHER HAS EVEN RISEN ABOVE THE CONCERNS OF DEATH...

ARE YOU SAYING YOU RESENT HIM -- THAT YOU'VE BEEN FORCED TO ACT AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST?

I FEAR HIM -- BUT PERHAPS ONLY BECAUSE HE SHOWS ME WHAT I MAY BECOME MYSELF.

I AM HIS DAUGHTER. IF ONE IS BORN A FISH, ONE IS "FORCED" TO BREATHE UNDER-WATER.

BUT EVEN THE FISH LEARNED TO CRAWL ONTO THE LAND AND WALK ERECT...?

BECAUSE I AM NOT BEYOND LOVE... AND A MAN SUCH AS YOU, NAYLAND, COULD--

YOU'D BETRAY HIM TO PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR ME?

IF I MUST.

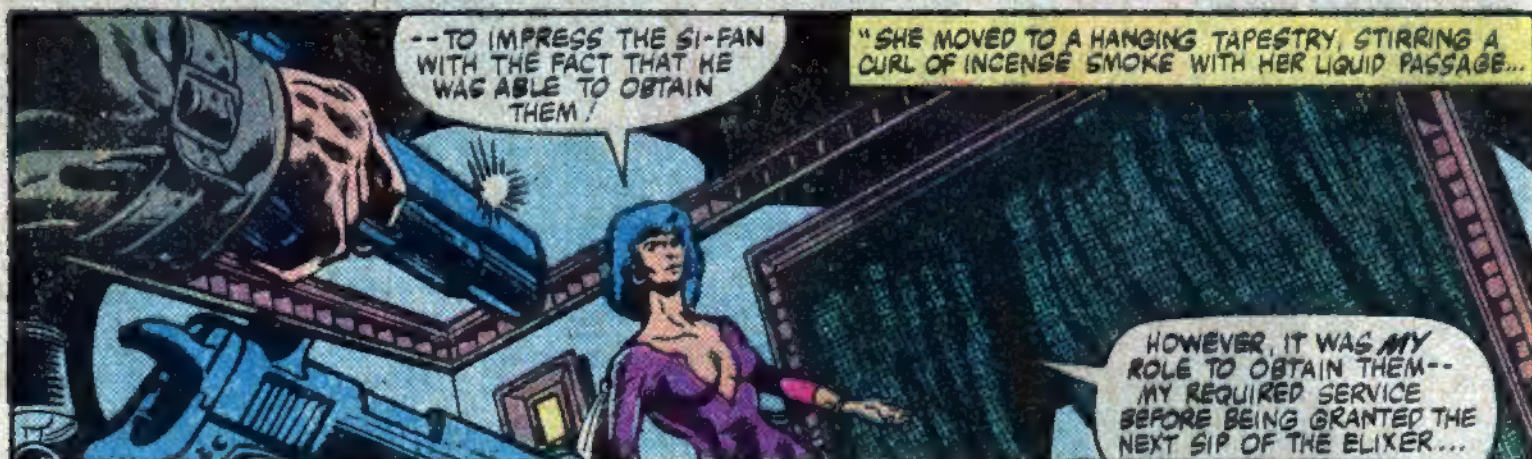
THEN PROVE IT.

ONE OF THE ELIXIR'S INGREDIENTS IS FOUND ONLY HERE IN EGYPT. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED AND A LARGE QUANTITY IS READY FOR TRANSPORT.

I WISH TO CHANGE, YES.

WHY?

BUT EVEN THIS--RENEWING HIS SUPPLY OF THE ELIXIR--IS MERELY A SMALL PART OF HIS MASTER PLAN.



"THE MUMMY WAS -- AND IS -- A NATIONAL TREASURE. WE ARRANGED TO HAVE IT DISCOVERED BY THE AUTHORITIES AND, AGAINST MY COMPANIONS' DESPERATE URGINGS TO DISSUADE ME --

"-- I TOOK ITS PLACE IN THE CASKET.

KEEP FAITH IN ME, NAYLAND.

"UNDER FAH LO SUEE'S SUPERVISION, I FELT MYSELF BEING LIFTED AND THRUST NONE TOO GENTLY ONTO A HARD, FLAT SURFACE..."

WE WILL YET LIVE ON A MOUNTAIN ABOVE A VALLEY AND UNDER THE MOON... TO LOVE FOREVER.

HERE COMES THE TRUCK, PETRIE, BUT FOR ALL WE KNOW, FAH LO SUEE COULD BE DELIVERING SMITH DIRECTLY INTO RU'S HANDS WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A STRUGGLE. HE'S TAKING TOO MUCH OF A CHANCE -- HE ALWAYS DOES...

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY NAYLAND IS THE LEADER, LEEKS -- AND WE'RE THE FOLLOWERS.

"I COULDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, OF COURSE, ENTOMBED AS I WAS IN CASKET AND TRUCK, BUT WE SOON JOINED A CARAVAN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. THE ELIXIR, IN URNS TOO FRAGILE TO BE TRUSTED TO THE BUMPY TRUCK, WAS TRANSPORTED BY CAMEL.

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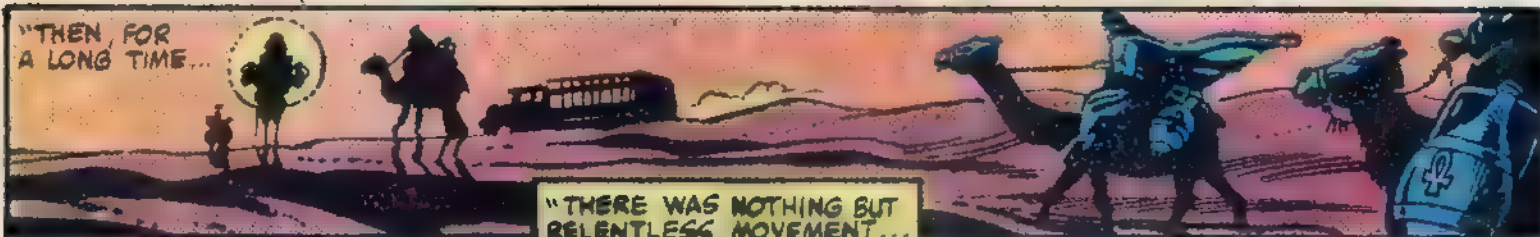
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"THEN, FOR A LONG TIME..."

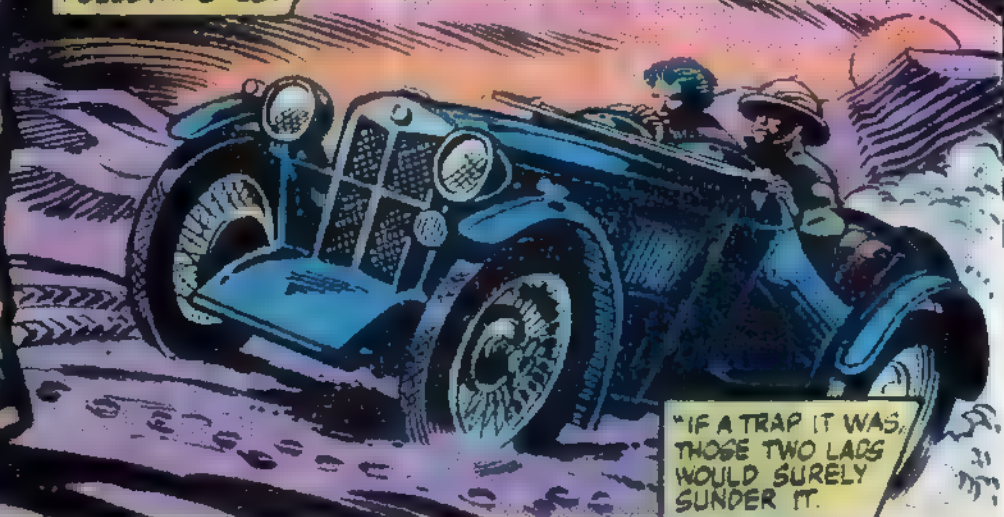
"THERE WAS NOTHING BUT RELENTLESS MOVEMENT..."



"... UNENDING DARKNESS..."

"AND SWELTERING HEAT."

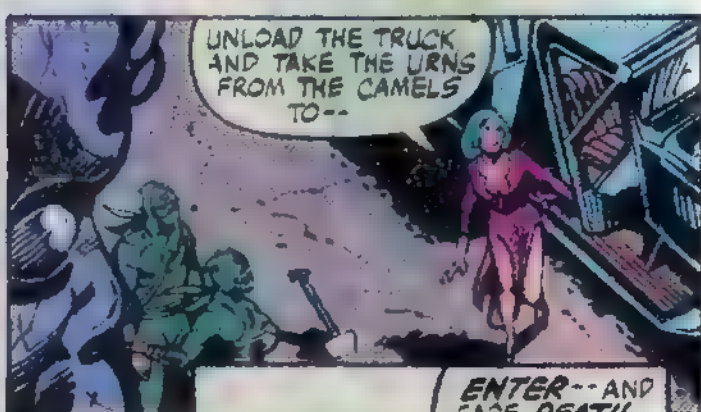
"APPROACHING DELIRIUM FROM LACK OF AIR, I BEGAN TO HARBOR DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF TRUSTING FAH LO SUEE... AND I TOOK SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT PETRIE AND LEEKS WERE FOLLOWING US."



"IF A TRAP IT WAS, THOSE TWO LADS WOULD SURELY SUNDER IT."



"DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, WE REACHED OUR UNKNOWN DESTINATION."



"UNLOAD THE TRUCK AND TAKE THE URNS FROM THE CAMELS TO--"

"EVEN FROM THE CASKET, I COULD IDENTIFY THE SOUND AS A STRUCK GONG... AND THEN THERE WAS ONLY RESONATING SILENCE..."



"...AND A FEELING OF EXPECTANCY..."



"...OF AWE..."



"...OF FEAR..."

"ENTER! MY SI-FAN..."



"ENTER--AND FACE DEATH FOR THE LAST TIME IN YOUR LIVES!"

"... FOLLOWED BY THE UNMISTAKABLE VOICE OF RU MANCHU HIMSELF!"

"SOON, I WAS LIFTED AND CARRIED DOWNWARD INTO SOME COOLER-- ALMOST CHILL-- ENVIRONMENT."

"THEIR STEPS ECHOED, AS IF IN CONFINED SPACE, AS I WAS TAKEN THROUGH MANY TURNS, PASSAGeways. I WONDERED?"

"COULD IT BE THAT FU MANCHU HAD LOCATED AND EXCAVATED AN ACTUAL EGYPTIAN TOMB--?"

"FINALLY, I WAS SET IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION, AND FU MANCHU'S VOICE VERIFIED MY GUESS..."

"THIS TOMB WAS BUILT WHEN EGYPT WAS YOUNG, SO LONG AGO THAT IT HAS SINCE BEEN COMPLETELY BURIED UNDER THE ENDLESS TIDE OF SHIFTING SAND. IT WAS BUILT FOR ME. HOWEVER, I SHALL NEVER NEED NOR USE IT-- NOR NEED YOU EVER KNOW THE CLOSENESS OF TOMB OR GRAVE."

"SURELY HE LIED! SURELY EVEN HE COULD NOT BE SO OLD! AS FAN LO SUEE POSITED, IT HAD TO BE SIMPLE MUMBO-JUMBO DESIGNED TO SPELLBIND HIS HEATHEN SI-FAN..."

"YOU SEE TREASURE HERE, ENOUGH TO MAKE A THOUSAND TIMES A THOUSAND MEN WEALTHY BEYOND IMAGINING, BUT COMPARED TO THE CONTENTS OF THE URN, ALL THE GOLD IN THE WORLD IS BUT TARNISHED DROSS."

"FOLLOW ME, LOYAL SI-FAN, INTO THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF OUR TIME, INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF SCIENCE AND MYSTICISM, AND THE CONTENTS OF THE URN SHALL BE YOURS! THE ELIXIR VITAE SHALL PASS YOUR LIPS AND FILL YOU WITH LIFE FOREVER!"

"THE ADVENTURE IS BOTH MONUMENTAL AND MOMENTOUS. I WISH TO MOLD YOU, EACH OF YOU, ALL OF YOU, ADMIRABLE WARRIORS AS YOU ARE--"

-- INTO AN ELITE CADRE OF PRIME ASSASSINS, THE GREATEST WARRIOR-ASSASSINS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN."

"THE KEY TO DOING SO... LIES IN THE MIND."

AS THE MODEL, I HAVE CHOSEN THE MIND OF HISTORY'S GREATEST MASS ASSASSIN... UPON WHICH TO RESHAPE YOUR MINDS.

"WHAT WAS THE DEVIL GETTING AT--? IT MADE NO SENSE..."

USING THE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF DRUGS, MESMERIZATION, AND BEHAVIORAL CONDITIONING, I WISH TO RECREATE EVERY PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGINAL MIND'S OBSESSIVE NEED TO KILL.

--ENABLING YOU TO KILL BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, TO KILL ON COMMAND, AND TO CONTROL YOUR OBSESSIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMAND... BUT I PROPOSE NOTHING LESS THAN WIPING YOUR MINDS CLEAN...

THERE WILL BE DEPARTURES FROM THE MODEL I HAVE CHOSEN, YES, SUCH AS THE ELIMINATION OF THE PSYCHOSEXUAL FACTOR--

--ERASING EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF YOUR PAST IDENTITY--

--AND REMAKING YOU AS **NEW BEINGS** WITH NONE OF YOUR PAST MEMORIES OR FEARS OR INHIBITIONS. YOU WILL BE MINE, TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY!

THEY FOLLOWED THEIR PHAROAH, AND FOR THEIR SERVICES THEY WERE GRANTED THE IMMORTALITY YOU SEE BEFORE YOU--IMMORTALITY IN THE **WORLD BEYOND**, AND ONLY AFTER THEY **DIED**! BUT WHAT GOOD IS SUCH IMMORTALITY--

--IF I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HUNT THEM DOWN IN THEIR LAIRS AND PLUCK THEM FROM THEIR SLUMBERS WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A **STRUGGLE**?!

BEHIND ME ARE THE THREE GREATEST WARRIORS OF THE AKNATON DYNASTY.

FOLLOW ME--!

SURRENDER YOURSELVES IN BODY, MIND, AND WILL, AND I WILL GRANT YOU IMMORTALITY **WITHOUT** DEATH-- HERE, NOW, AND **FOREVER**!

SHOW THEM THE DUST THEY WILL BECOME SHOULD THEY REFUSE ME!

SHOW THEM.

SWUPE

"THEY'D OPENED ONE OF THE CASKETS"



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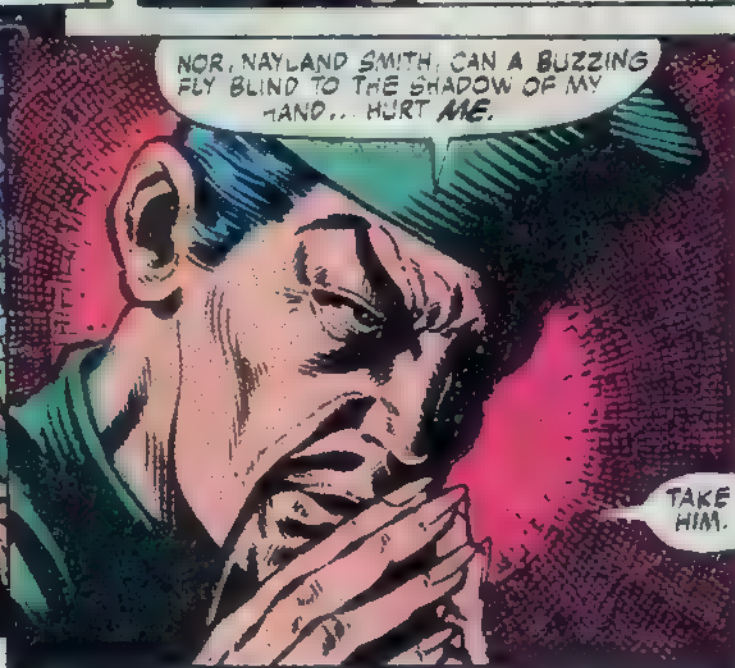
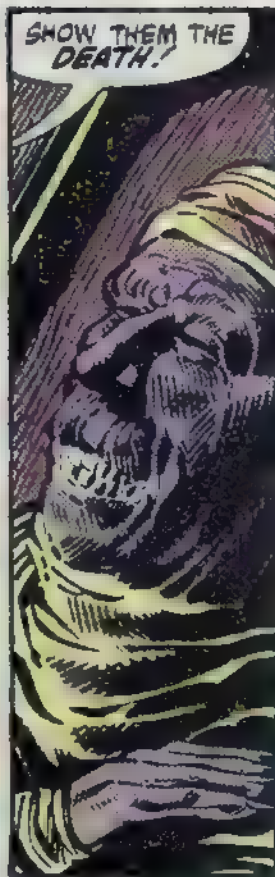
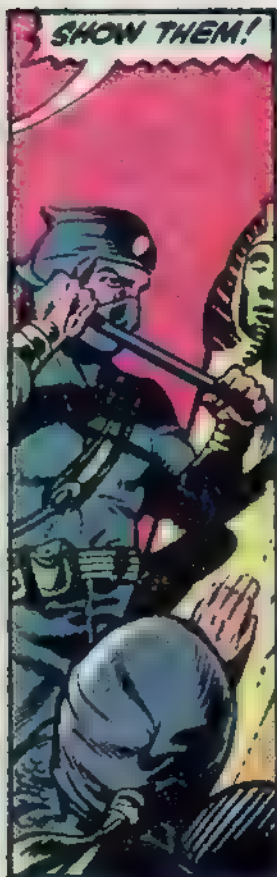
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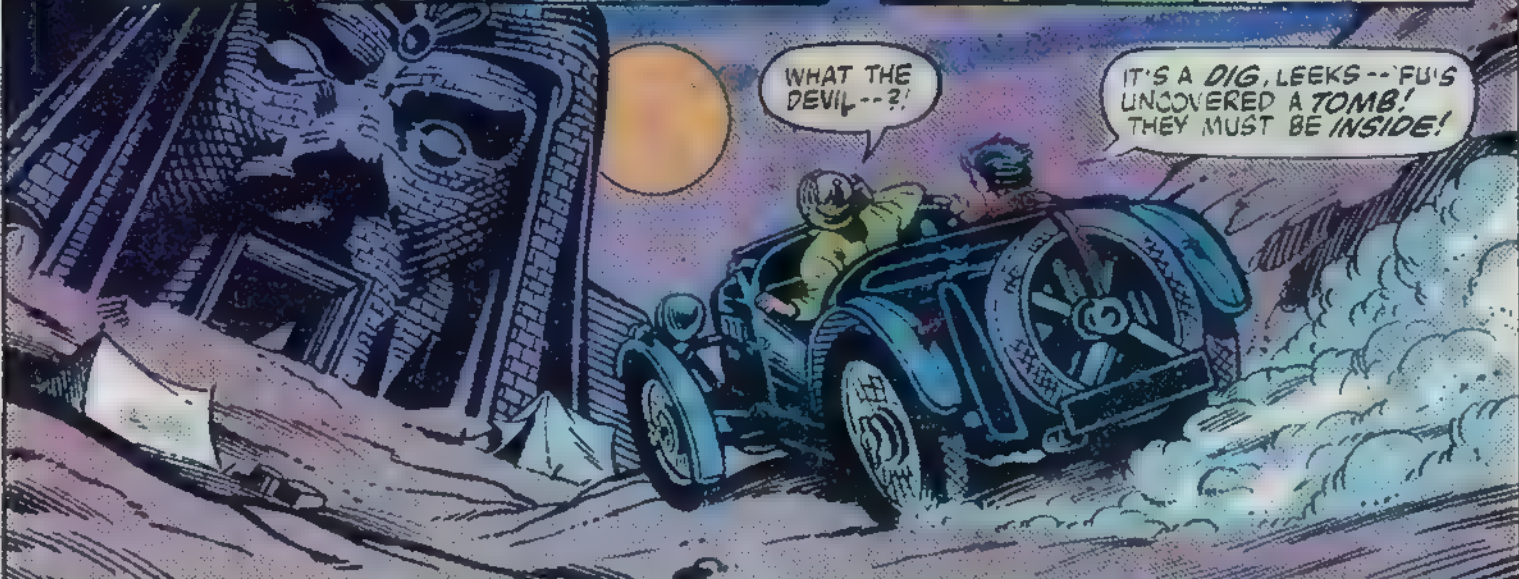
"AND FINALLY, I WAS HELPLESS IN THEIR FIENDISH CLUTCHES..."

THEN IF HE MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, MY DAUGHTER, YOU CANNOT OBJECT...



... IF I USE THE PROUD NAYLAND SMITH AS THE FIRST SUBJECT OF MY EXPERIMENT...

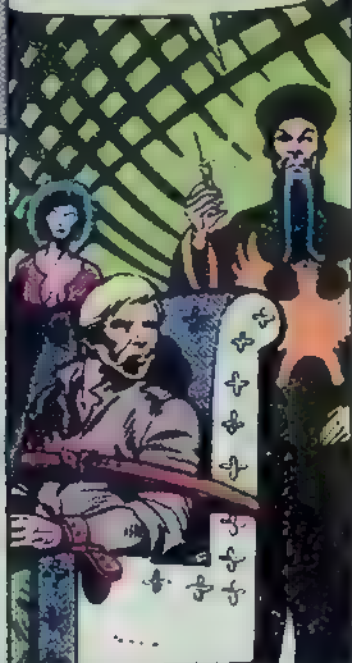
... THE FIRST AND ONLY ONE WHO WILL **NOT** BE REPAID WITH THE ELIXIR VITAE.



WHAT THE DEVIL---?!

IT'S A *DIG*, LEEKS-- FU'S UNCOVERED A TOMB! THEY MUST BE *INSIDE*!

A FITTING END FOR YOU, IS IT NOT, SMITH. TO BECOME THE ONE THING YOU HATE THE MOST--



--AN ASSASSIN WHO MUST MINDLESSLY OBEY "THE MOST FIENDISH ARCH-VILLAIN WHO EVER LIVED"?

YOU WILL SERVE ME WELL WHEN THIS DRUG STRIPS AWAY YOUR MEMORY--



--AND A CONDITIONING PROGRAM STRIPS AWAY YOUR VERY IDENTITY.



YOUR FIRST MISSION, SMITH, WILL BE THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. PETRIE...

NO, FATHER-- NO!



SWAP

"THE GATHERED SI-FAN GASPED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE UNTHINKABLE DEED--AS FU MANCHU SLOWLY AND COLDLY TURNED ON HIS TREMBLING DAUGHTER...



YOU DARE, FAH LO SUEE...? YOU DARE... TO STRIKE YOUR FATHER?!

"BUT AS HE MOVED FORWARD, AS IF TO SMITE HER DEAD--

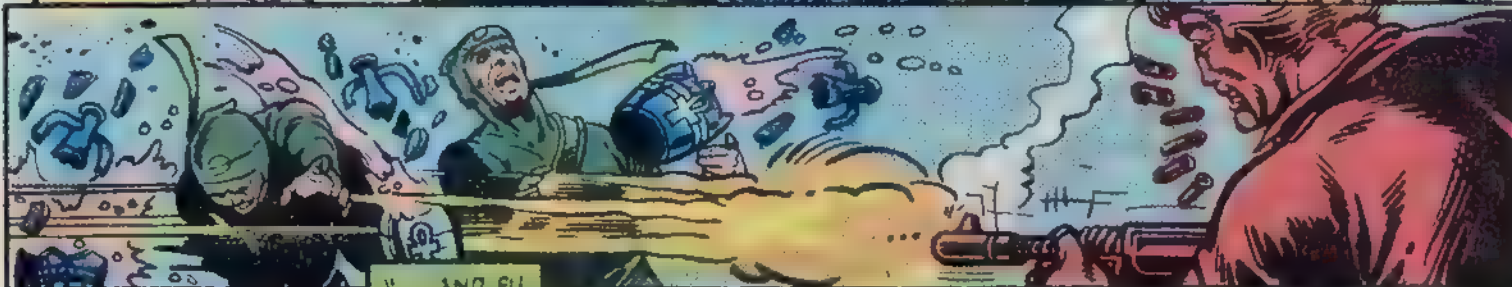


WHO--?!

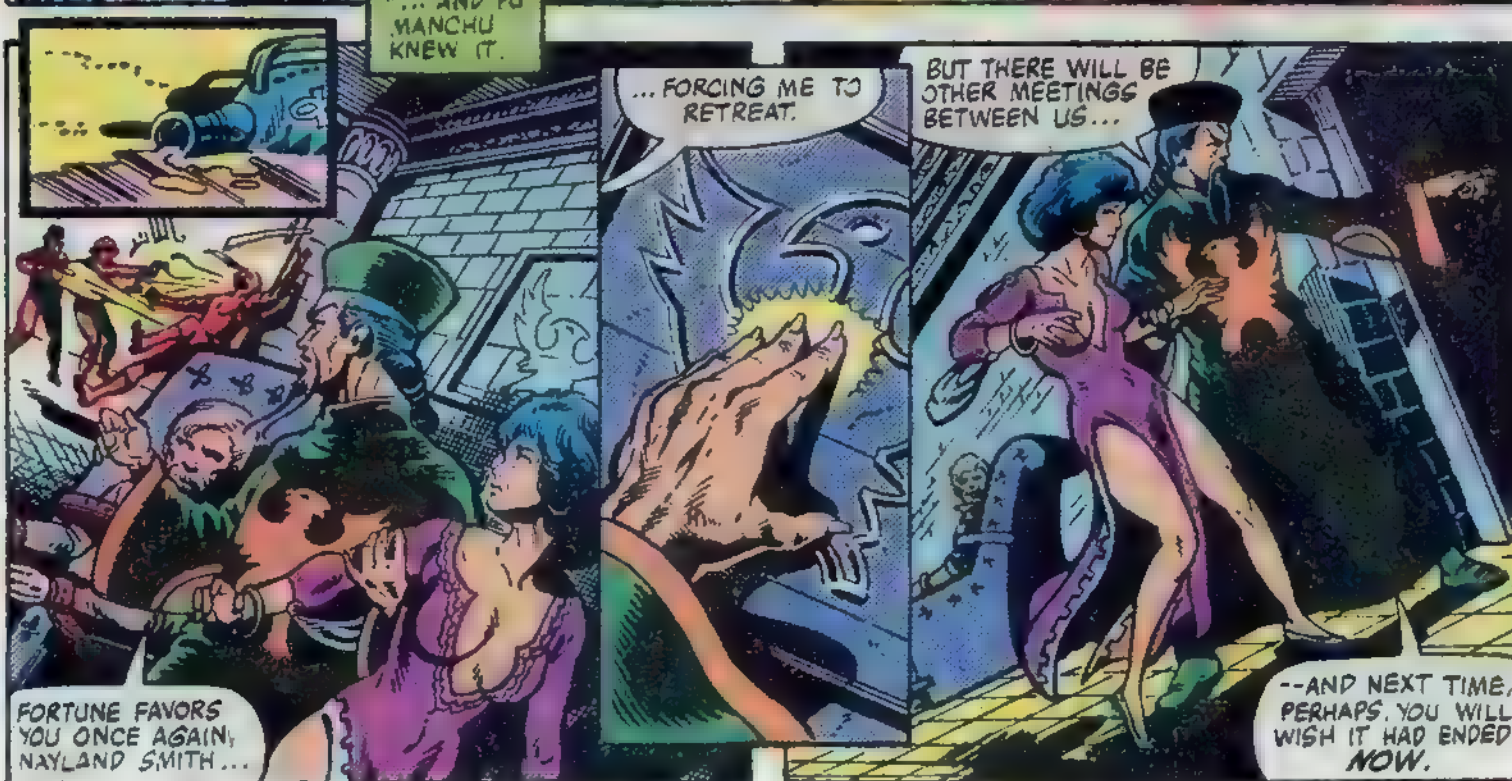
PETRIE-- AND ONE OTHER! STOP THEM! KILL THEM!



"BUT THE SI-FAN DACOITS WERE NO MATCH FOR MY COMRADE'S BLAZING GUNS...



"... AND FU MANCHU KNEW IT.



...FORCING ME TO RETREAT.

BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN US...

FORTUNE FAVORS YOU ONCE AGAIN, NAYLAND SMITH...

--AND NEXT TIME, PERHAPS, YOU WILL WISH IT HAD ENDED NOW.



I FEEL RUSHING AIR-- THE PASSAGE MUST LEAD OUTSIDE -- TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOMB!

LISTEN -- HEAR THAT SOUND?

SOME KIND OF DRONING...!

"AND WHEN WE EMERGED FROM THE PASSAGEWAY INTO THE COOL NIGHT AIR..."

THOSE LIGHTS--!

IT... IT'S A MAKESHIFT **LANDING STRIP!** HE HAD AN ESCAPE ROUTE PREPARED-- HERE AT THE REAR ENTRANCE OF THE TOMB...

"THE DRONING AIRPLANE SOARED ABOVE US CLIMBING FOR THE MOON..."

"WEIRD, ULULATING CRIES AND HOWLS SWEEP THE CEASELESS SANDS. THE JACKALS WOULD SOON ENTER THAT TIMELESS PLACE OF DEATH --

"EVEN IN VICTORY, WE'D BEEN DEFEATED--AND I FELT I WAS NEVER TO PUT AN END TO THE LOATHSOME CAREER OF FU MANCHU. SO CRUSHED WAS I THAT I COULD ONLY STAND WITH SLUMPED SHOULDERS AND EYES SWOLLEN WITH TEARS. FINALLY IT WAS LEOKS WHO SPOKE..."

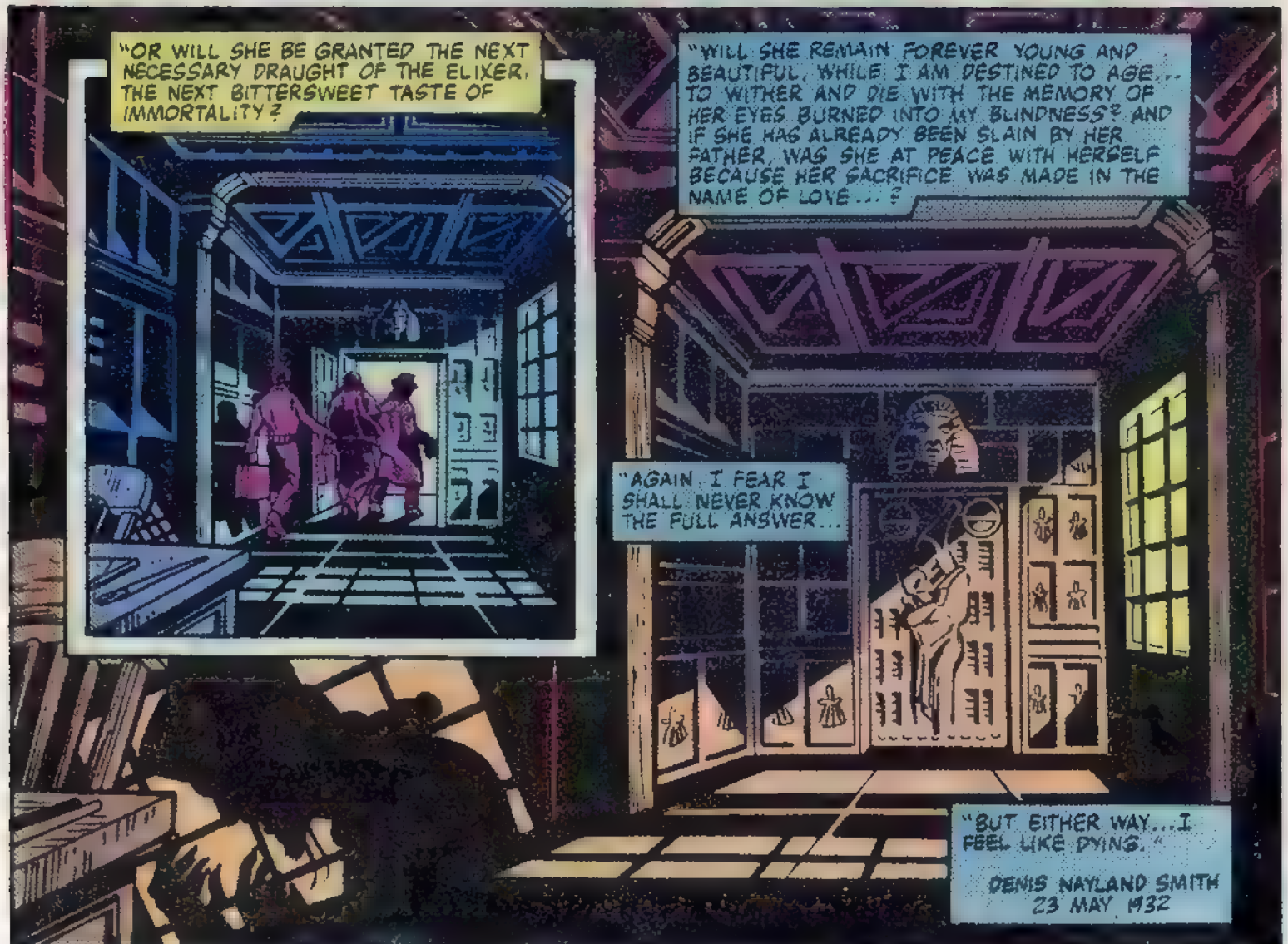
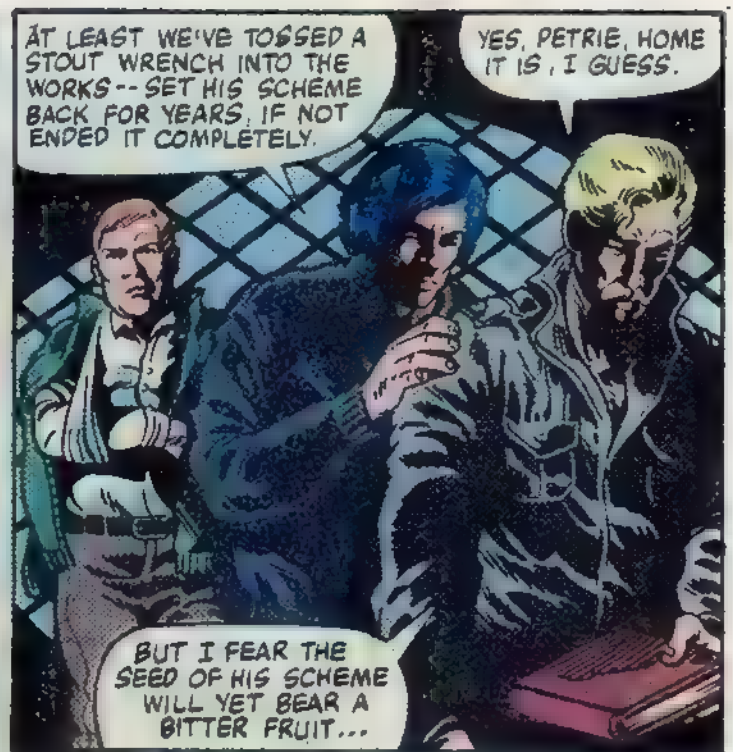
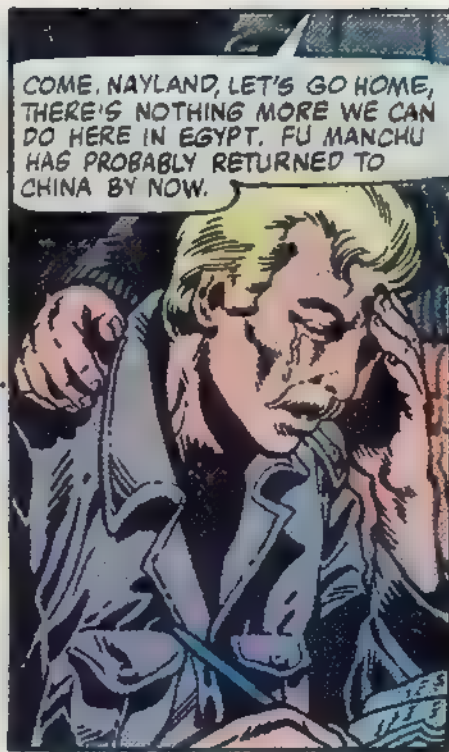
WELL, HE'S GONE, BLAST HIS BLOODY HIDE, AND THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT BUT TO GET BACK TO CAIRO BEFORE I BLEED TO DEATH.

COME ON, NAYLAND... THERE MUST BE SOME PETROL IN THE TENTS.

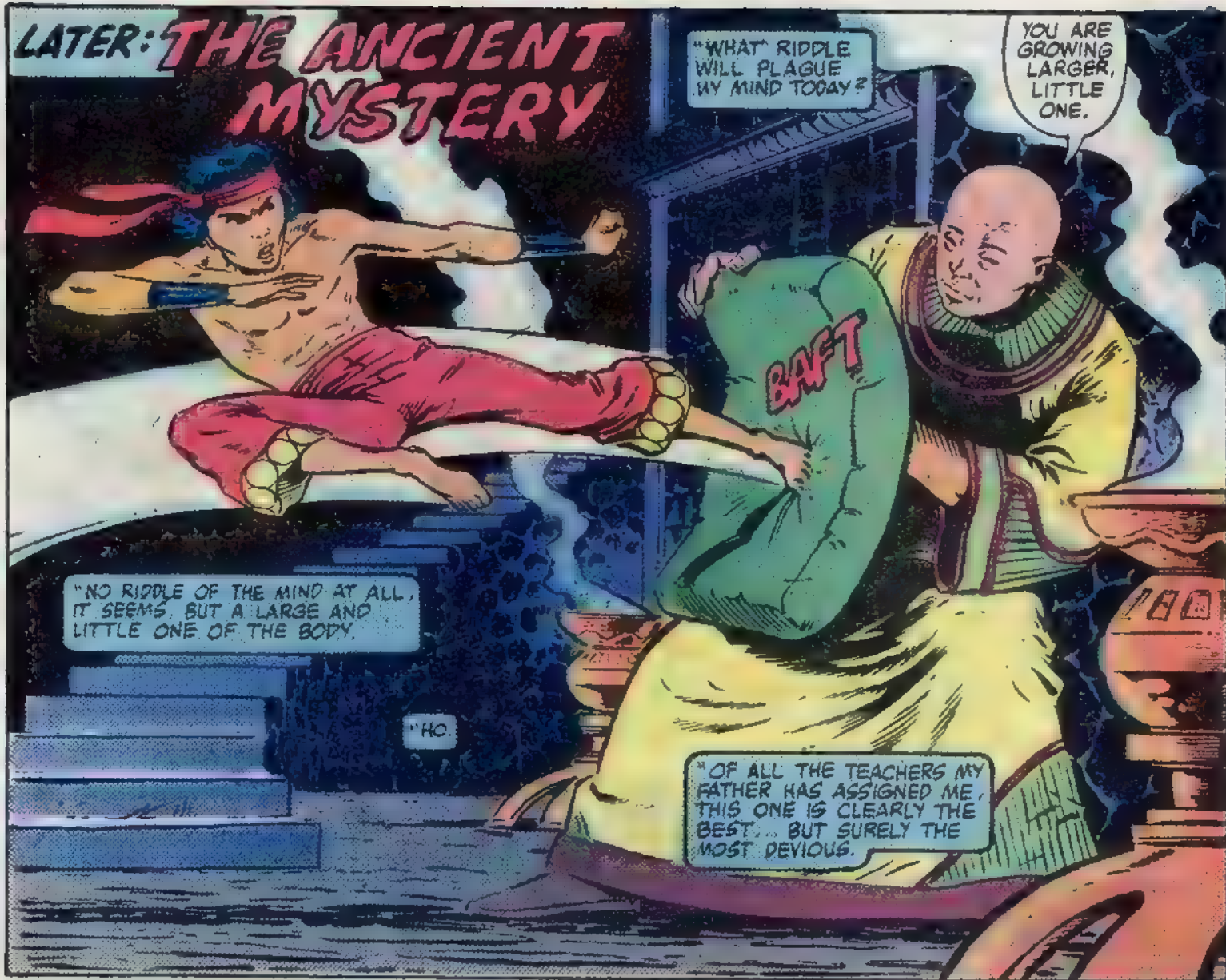
"-- LEAVING THEIR TRACKS IN SPILLED IMMORTALITY... TO BECOME RED OF FANG AND CLAW... WHILE I COULD HARDLY PITY THE DEAD SI-FAN..."

"... COULD, IN FACT, ONLY WEEP FOR LOST LOVE... LOST FOREVER..."

child, in fact, only
weep for lost love...
lost forever...
But I wonder
if she knows
the extent of
and if she
is at peace
with herself
because her
sacrifice has
And I also won
either way, I
feel like a
00:00



LATER: THE ANCIENT MYSTERY



"WHAT RIDDLE WILL PLAGUE MY MIND TODAY?"

YOU ARE GROWING LARGER, LITTLE ONE.

"NO RIDDLE OF THE MIND AT ALL, IT SEEMS, BUT A LARGE AND LITTLE ONE OF THE BODY."

"HO"

"OF ALL THE TEACHERS MY FATHER HAS ASSIGNED ME, THIS ONE IS CLEARLY THE BEST... BUT SURELY THE MOST DEVIOUS."

"BUT PERHAPS HE SPEAKS NOT OF MIND OR BODY, BUT RATHER OF MY SPIRIT."

SOON YOUR GROWTH WILL REACH ITS END, SHANG-CHI, AND IT WILL BE TIME FOR YOU TO GROW.

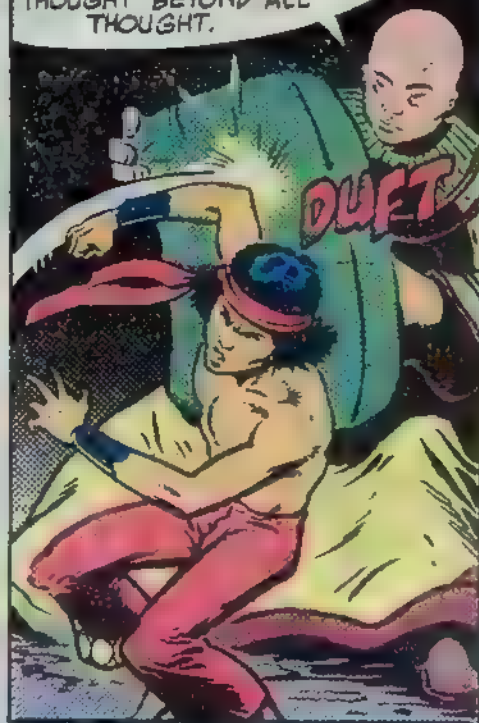
ONLY THEN WILL YOUR SPIRIT AWAKEN.



"NO-- HE HAS DENIED MY SPIRIT, CLAIMING IT DOES NOT YET EXIST."

"THEN IS IT MY MIND ALONE WHICH MUST BE CONCERNED WITH THE RIDDLE?"

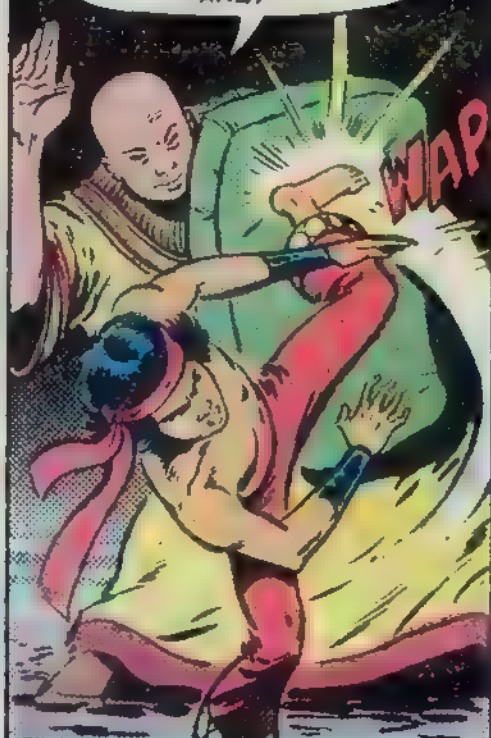
THINK NOT, LITTLE ONE. CONCENTRATE ON YOUR BODY ALONE. STRIKE EACH BLOW WITH THE DEEP THOUGHT BEYOND ALL THOUGHT.



"THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE, THEN, AS EVER, LIES AT THE HEART OF ANOTHER RIDDLE."

"SHOULD I FORGET ABOUT IT THEN? SHOULD I INSTEAD CHANNEL ALL MY ENERGY INTO MY TRAINING?"

ENOUGH FOR NOW, LITTLE SHANG-CHI. COME-- LET US SEE HOW BIG YOU ARE.



"PATIENCE-- BY CONFOUNDING ME, HE MERELY SEEKS TO ENLIGHTEN US BOTH."

EVERYTHING WHICH IS STARTED MUST GROW, LITTLE ONE, JUST AS YOU HAVE GROWN SINCE LAST YOU WASHED THE CHALK FROM YOUR HAIR.

EVEN DECAY GROWS.

IF A THING IS STARTED, IT MUST GROW TO ITS END

YOU BEGIN AS A SPARK IN YOUR FATHER'S LOINS, AND EVEN NOW WE ARE GUIDING YOU, SHAPING YOU, TOWARD THE FULL FRUITION OF YOUR DESTINED POTENTIAL. WITHOUT THE SHAPING AND GUIDANCE, YOU WOULD STILL REACH A FULL BLOOM ...BUT YOU WOULD GROW CROOKED AND PALE.

SOON, IN A HANDFUL OF YEARS, YOUR GROWING WILL BE DONE. IN EVERY DETAIL, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU REACH THIS STAGE AS PLANNED. INDEED, YOUR FATHER HAS GREAT PLANS FOR YOU.

... BUT ONLY WHEN YOUR GROWTH IS COMPLETED TO HIS SATISFACTION...

AND THEN...?

YOU WILL **CONTINUE** GROWING, SHANG-CHI, IN MIND AND SPIRIT. REMEMBER THE MEANING OF YOUR NAME-- "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF A SPIRIT."

BUT SURELY MY **BODY** WILL STOP GROWING. INDEED, AFTER A CERTAIN AGE, WILL IT NOT BEGIN TO STOOP AND SHRINK?

YES, BUT IT WILL STILL BE GROWING-- IT WILL BE GROWING **OLD**. IT IS ALL THE SAME, ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD-- A CYCLE, YES, BUT NEVER A REVERSAL.

THE FINAL GOAL OF GROWTH WILL ALWAYS LIE AHEAD OF YOU.

BUT WHEN WILL I BE **WHOLE**? WHEN WILL I STOP GROWING?

NEVER-- NOT UNTIL YOUR DEATH, AND EVEN THEN IT WILL NOT STOP-- FOR YOU WILL HAVE GROWN ENOUGH TO MEET YOUR ANCESTORS, AND YOU WILL LIVE AND GROW WITH THEM FOREVER.

YES?

YES.

AND NOW... YOUR SISTER ARRIVES.

MY SISTER? FAH LO SUEE--?

GREETINGS, LITTLE SPIRIT.

"YES, IT IS FAH LO SUEE--
WITH A WHITE MAN. HER
LOVER...?"

A MOMENT,
PHILLIP-- I
MUST SPEAK
WITH MY LITTLE
BROTHER...

"SHE HAS
NOT
CHANGED."

"SHE IS...
BEAUTIFUL."

WHO IS THE MAN?

MY LOVER-- BUT
YOU ARE STILL TOO
LITTLE TO UNDER-
STAND SUCH
THINGS AS LOVE,
EVEN THOUGH YOU
HAVE GROWN MUCH
SINCE LAST I
SAW YOU.

WHY DO YOU COME
SO SELDOM TO SEE
ME AND OUR FATHER?

THERE IS MUCH IN THE WORLD BE-
YOND OUR FATHER'S FORTRESS
WALLS, LITTLE SPIRIT-- THINGS
SUCH AS LOVE.

IS THERE NOT
LOVE HERE, IN
HONAN?

YES.

THERE
IS.

BUT SOMETIMES I DO NOT FIND IT
EASY TO OBEY THE DEMANDS OF
OUR FATHER'S LOVE. HE MAKES
LOVE... DIFFICULT.

SOMEDAY, LITTLE SPIRIT, WHEN YOU ARE
GROWN, WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS ANCIENT
LAND OF CHINA TO SEE THE REST OF
THE WORLD... PERHAPS YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND.

NOW I MUST GO, SO THAT OUR FATHER CAN MEET PHILLIP.
IT IS AGAINST MY EVERY WISH AND FEAR, BUT PHILLIP
INSISTS-- Hoping that our father will agree to do
CERTAIN BUSINESS WITH HIM.

"AND I AM LEFT WISHING
THAT SOME UNDER-
STANDING COULD PRECEDE
FULL GROWTH..."

"NIGHT'S THIRST SENDS ME IN QUEST OF
WATER... ONLY TO FIND MYSTERY IN MY
SISTER'S PLEADING VOICE..."

BUT WHY, FATHER? WHY
DO YOU CHOOSE TO
PUNISH ME NOW--
AFTER SO LONG?

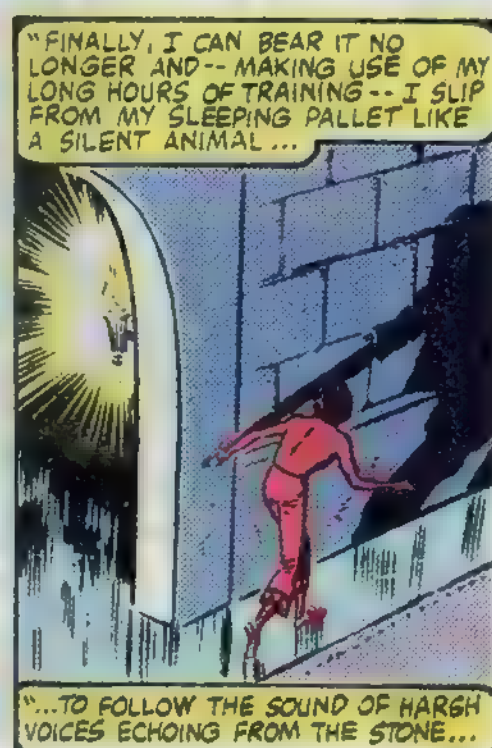
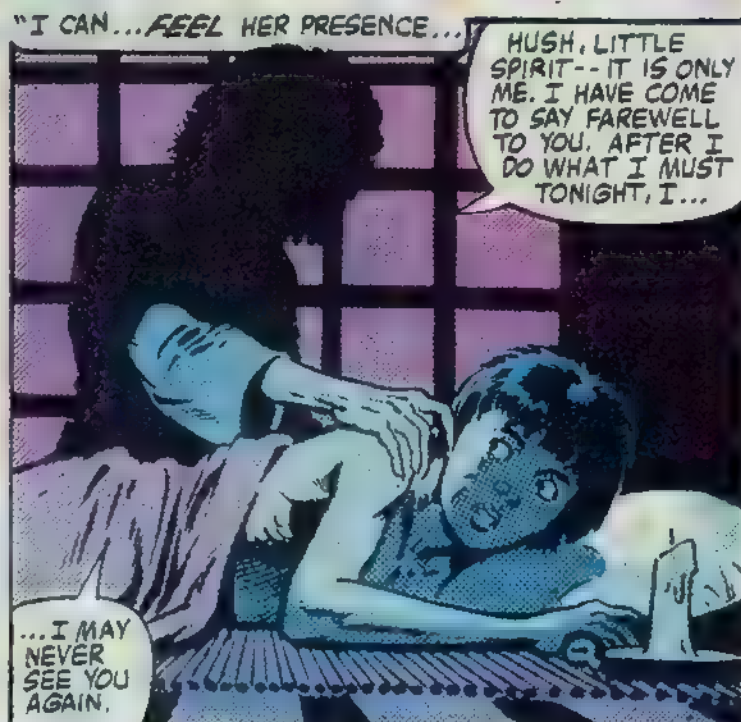
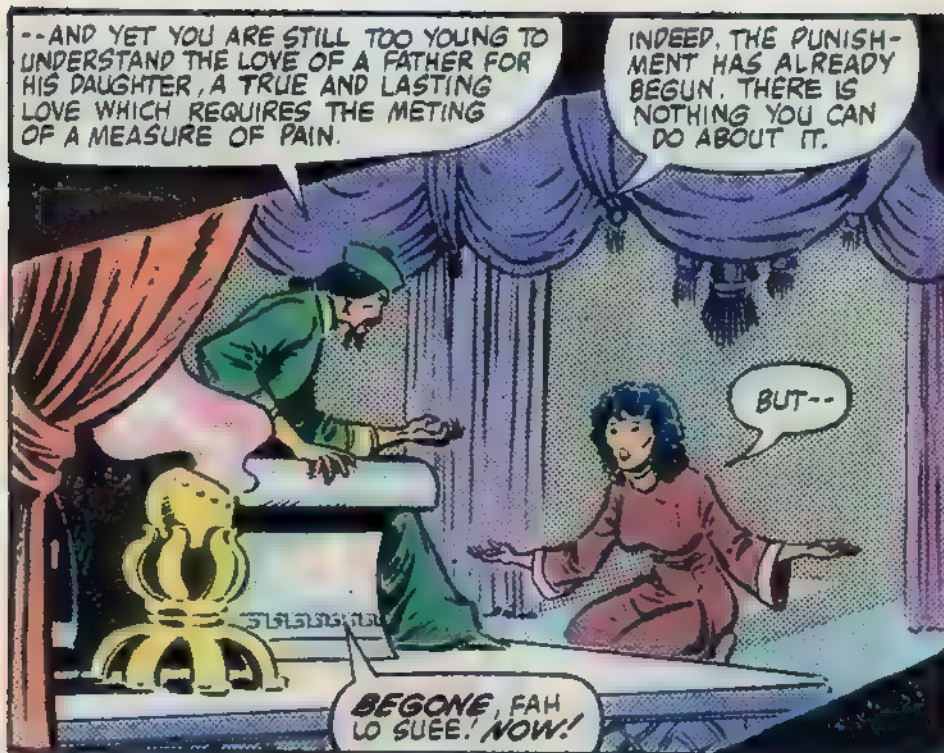
BECAUSE YOU ARE NOW
IN A POSITION TO BE
PUNISHED, FAH LO SUEE...

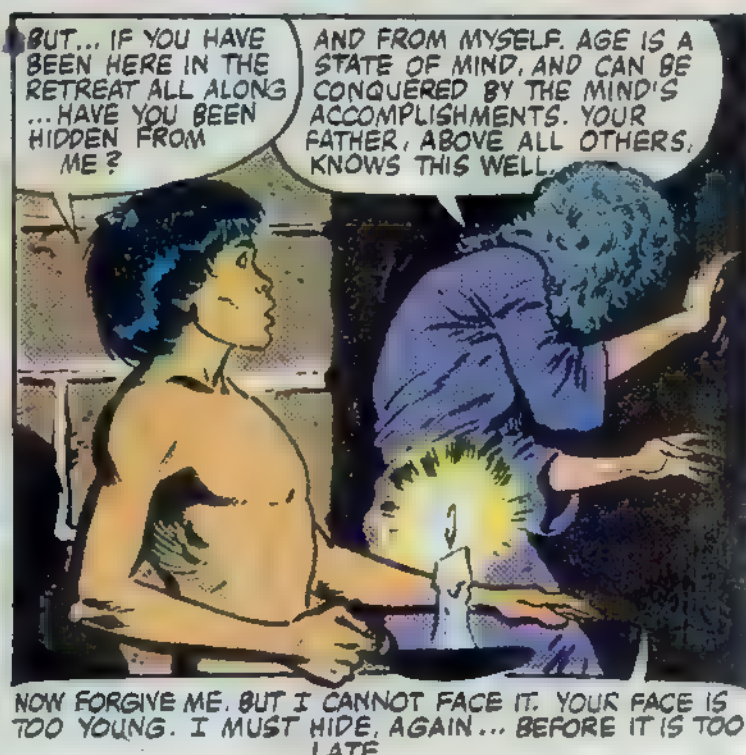
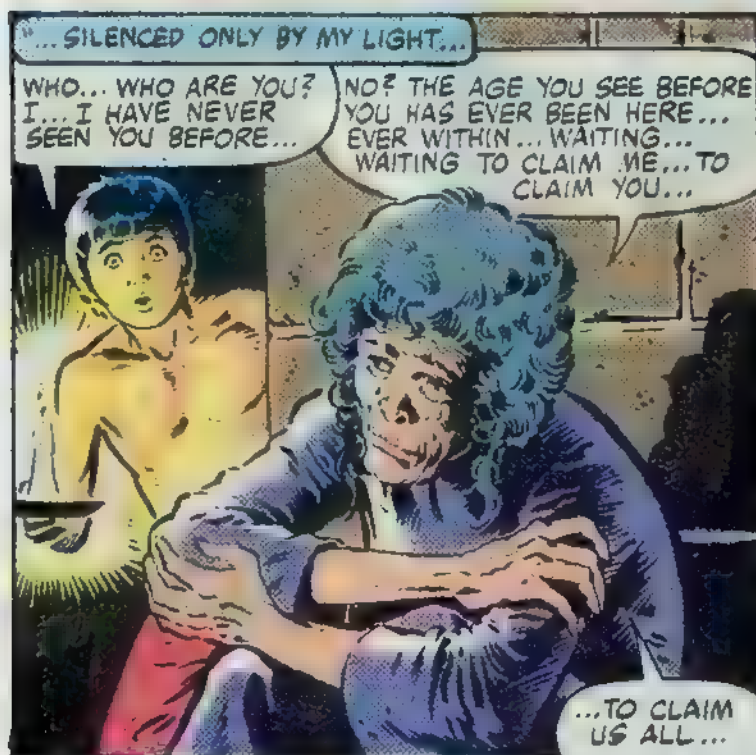
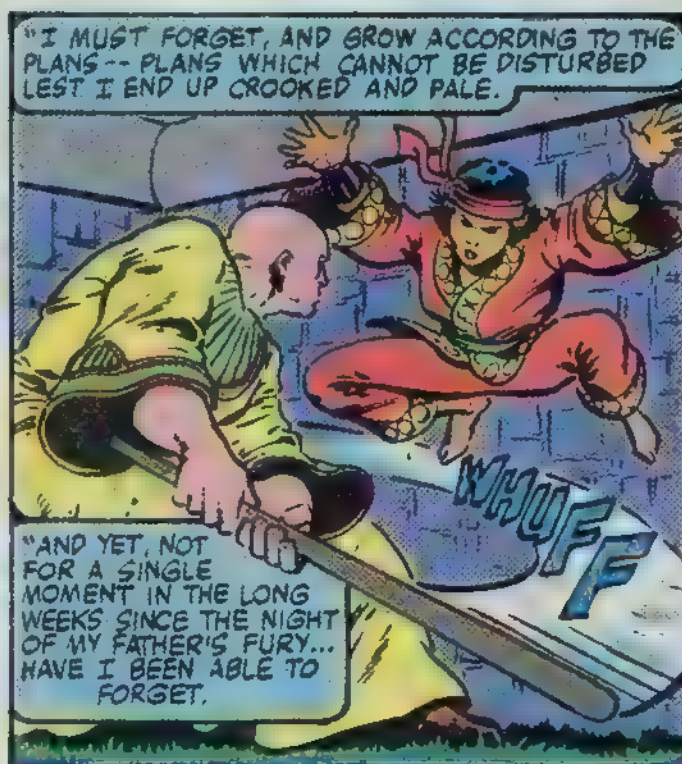
...AND BECAUSE I AM NOW
IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE
PUNISHMENT SERVE A SECOND
END. PUNISHMENT FOR YOU
BECOMES A REWARD FOR
ME. THIRTY YEARS AGO
YOU BETRAYED ME,
DEPRIVED ME...

NOW YOU WILL
PROVIDE ME WITH
A SUBSTITUTE
FOR MY LONG-AGO
DEPRIVATION.

BUT THE CRUELTY
OF IT, FATHER!
I LOVE--

SPEAK NOT OF LOVE
TO MRS. FAH LO SUEE!
YOU HAVE CHANGED
NOT AT ALL FOR
LONG YEARS--





"BUT I CAN BEAR THESE SMALL MYSTERIES, ALL SEEMINGLY LINKED, NO LONGER.



"I FOLLOW THE OLD WOMAN AT A DISTANCE...

"...TO MY FATHER FU MAN-CHU'S PRIVATE CHAMBER.

--NO MORE--NO MORE!
I BEG YOUR FOR-
GIVENESS!



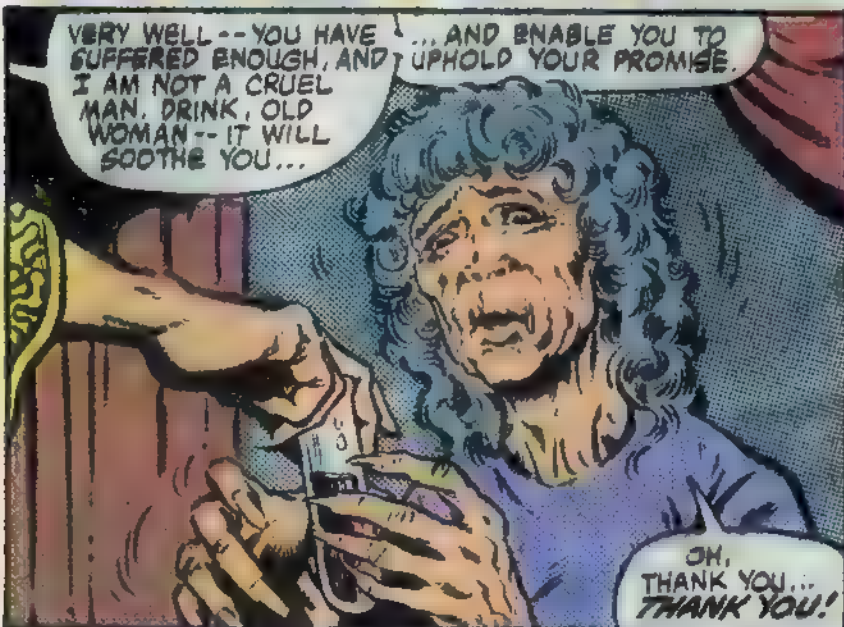
AND I PROMISE TO ATONE!

THE MADNESS WILL BE NO MORE! I WILL NEVER REST UNTIL IT IS ENDED!



I SWEAR
IT!
I SWEAR
IT!

VERY WELL--YOU HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH, AND I AM NOT A CRUEL MAN. DRINK, OLD WOMAN--IT WILL SOOTHE YOU...



OH,
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU!



"...?"

"MORNING: MY SISTER LEAVES THE RETREAT, BUT WHAT OF HER LOVER-- THAT WHICH SHE CLAIMED MADE HER LEAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE?



"IS HE STILL NOT HERE? OR IS HE, SOME-
HOW, THE 'MADNESS' WHICH ESCAPED?
HAS THE LOVE MY SISTER BROUGHT
HERE NOW BECOME LOST...?"

"WHATEVER THE REASONS, MY SISTER LEAVES ALONE, AND I SUSPECT TOO, THAT SOMEHOW THE OLD WOMAN HAS ALSO GONE.



"BUT WHO WAS SHE? WHAT MEDICINE
DID SHE RECEIVE FROM MY FATHER?"

"WILL IT ALL FOREVER REMAIN AN ANCIENT MYSTERY..."



"...NO MATTER
HOW OLD I
MAY GROW..."

NOW--THE WHITECHAPEL MADNESS

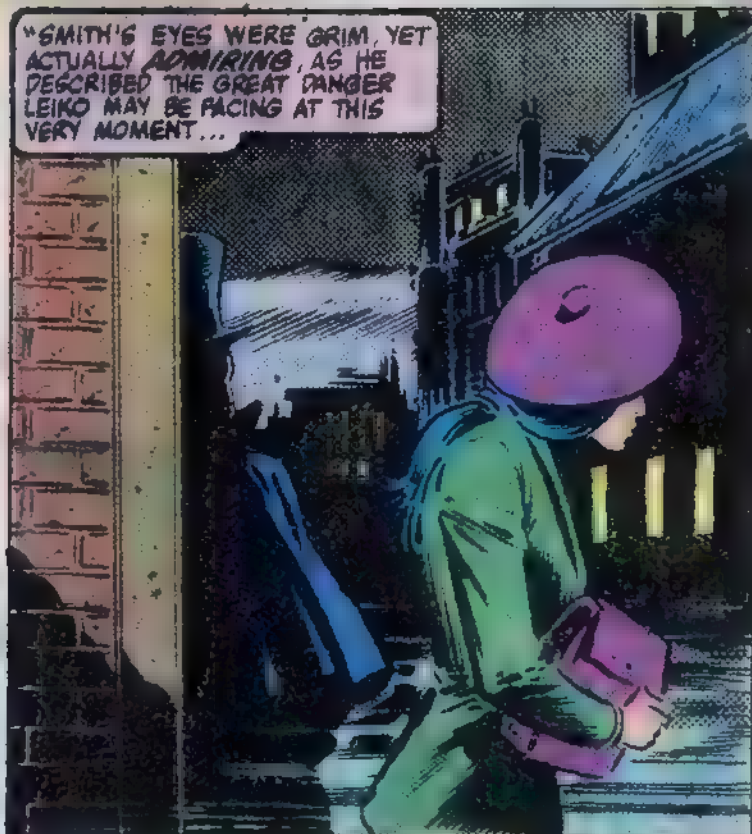
"NAYLAND SMITH HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT THREE WOMEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN THE STREETS OF WHITECHAPEL, OR SPITALFIELDS--A POORER SECTION OF LONDON WHICH HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS..."



"... AND THAT, TO PREVENT FURTHER DEATH, LEIKO HAS DEPARTED ON WHAT HE CALLS 'HER FIRST SOLO MISSION IN YEARS'..."



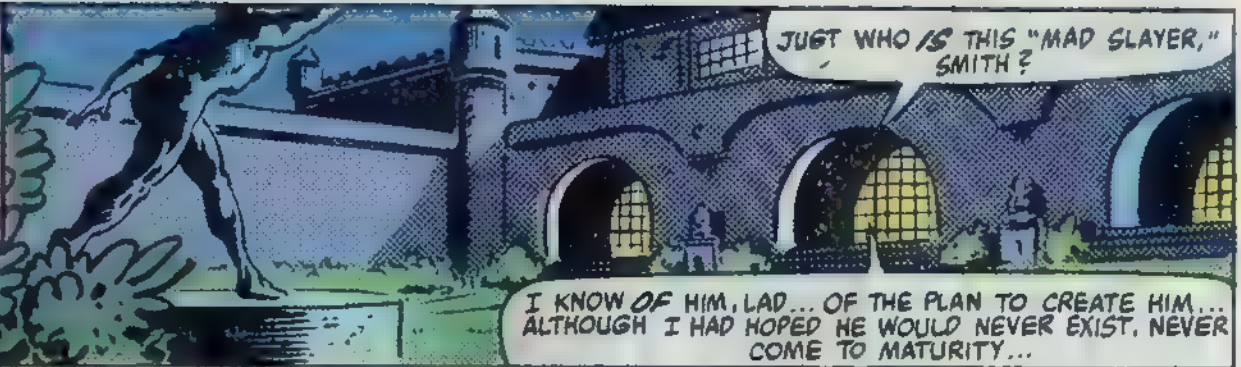
"SMITH'S EYES WERE GRIM, YET ACTUALLY ADMIRING, AS HE DESCRIBED THE GREAT DANGER LEIKO MAY BE FACING AT THIS VERY MOMENT..."



"... AS SHE BOLDLY OFFERS HERSELF TO THE NIGHT-- PERHAPS TO BECOME THE MAD SLAYER'S NEXT VICTIM."



"THUS, I HAVE RETURNED TO SMITH'S SCOTTISH CASTLE FROM THE DOCKS OF ABERDEEN -- AFTER NEARLY LOSING MY LIFE -- ONLY TO FIND THAT LEIKO IS GONE, AND IN PERIL OF LOSING HER'S...



JUST WHO IS THIS "MAD SLAYER," SMITH?

I KNOW OF HIM, LAD... OF THE PLAN TO CREATE HIM... ALTHOUGH I HAD HOPED HE WOULD NEVER EXIST, NEVER COME TO MATURITY...

"I SCAN THEIR TROUBLED FACES -- PETRIE, SMITH, LEEKS, MELISSA GREVILLE, REGTON -- AND FINALLY SMITH SIGHS...

IT'S ALL IN HERE, LAD -- IN MY JOURNAL ENTRY FOR THE 23RD OF MAY, 1932.



IT WILL BE EASIER IF YOU JUST READ IT!

"IT BEGINS: 'WAS IT ANIMAL CUNNING AND TREACHERY, MASQUED AS A WOMAN'S LOVE, WHICH HAS BROUGHT US HALF-WAY ROUND THE GLOBE TO THESE TEEMING STREETS OF CAIRO?' --



GOOD -- HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME.

"... AND IT MOVES THROUGH AN INCREDIBLE ACCOUNT OF EGYPTIAN INTRIGUE -- WITH DESERT CARAVANS, TOMBS AND MUMMY CASKETS, SI-FAN ASSASSINS, THE ELIXIR VITAE... AND, BEHIND IT ALL, MY FATHER FU MANCHU...

SOMETHING'S SCARING HIM OFF...

THE POLICE -- WHEN YOU NEED THEM, THEY'RE NEVER AROUND -- WHEN YOU DON'T, THEY POP UP LIKE CLOCKWORK TO SPOIL EVERYTHING...

EVENIN', MISS. BIT OF THE FOG, EH?



"... AND WHEN I HAVE REACHED THE LAST TEAR-STAINED LINE --

I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND, SMITH.

THE PERFECT SLAYER, LAD -- THE COMPLETE ASSASSIN -- IS ABROAD IN THE STREETS OF LONDON ONCE AGAIN. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 1932 AND NOW, THE SEEDS OF FU MANCHU'S 45 YEAR OLD PLAN HAVE BORNE FRUIT...

... AND IT'S FINALLY COME HOME TO HAUNT US.

DON'T YOU SEE, LAD? THE RECENT SLAYINGS PROVE THAT FU MANCHU'S SCHEME HAS FINALLY SUCCEEDED!

MOREOVER, IT PROVES THAT YOUR FATHER KNEW THE IDENTITY OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS MASS MURDERER IN HISTORY -- A FIEND WHOSE IDENTITY IS STILL UNKNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE...

THE INFAMOUS JACK THE RIPPER -- RED SLAYER OF WHITECHAPEL!

TO DUPLICATE THE RIPPER'S PSYCHE IN HIS SI-FAN, FU MANCHU HAD TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE RIPPER -- WHO HE WAS, HOW HE WAS RAISED, HIS ENVIRONMENT, HIS PARENTS AND FRIENDS -- EVERYTHING.

TRUE, HE PLANNED TO CONDITION HIS SI-FAN TO SLAY ANYONE ON COMMAND, ELIMINATING THE PSYCHO-SEXUAL FACTOR LIMITING JACK'S VICTIMS TO WOMEN, BUT TO RECREATE THE HOMICIDAL FRENZY...

... WELL, HE HAD TO HAVE INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIPPER HIMSELF.

OOPS -- SEEMS I'VE LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND, OFFICER.

NOW I'VE GOT TO REVERSE ROLES -- AND STALK HIM.

THERE -- BUT HE'LL LOSE ME IN THIS MAZE OF ALLEYWAYS AND CRUMBLING BUILDINGS!

GONE...

NOTHING BUT FOG...

MY FATHER HAD THIS "INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE!" YET NO ONE ELSE HAD A CLUE?

OH, PLENTY OF CLUES, LAD, AND THEORIES IN ABUNDANCE, ACCUSING EVERYONE FROM RENOWNED PHYSICIANS OF THE DAY TO THE ACTING POLICE CHIEF...

THERE'S EVEN THE RECENT THEORY THAT THE RIPPER WAS NONE OTHER THAN QUEEN VICTORIA'S GRAND-SON EDWARD, THE PRINCE OF WALES, WHO--

UH, YES, PETRIE, QUITE. BUT THE FACT IS, NO THEORY HAS BEEN PROVEN. ALL THAT'S CERTAIN IS THAT THE RIPPER EXISTED...

A LONE WOMAN--
ENTERING
THAT ALLEY-
WAY...

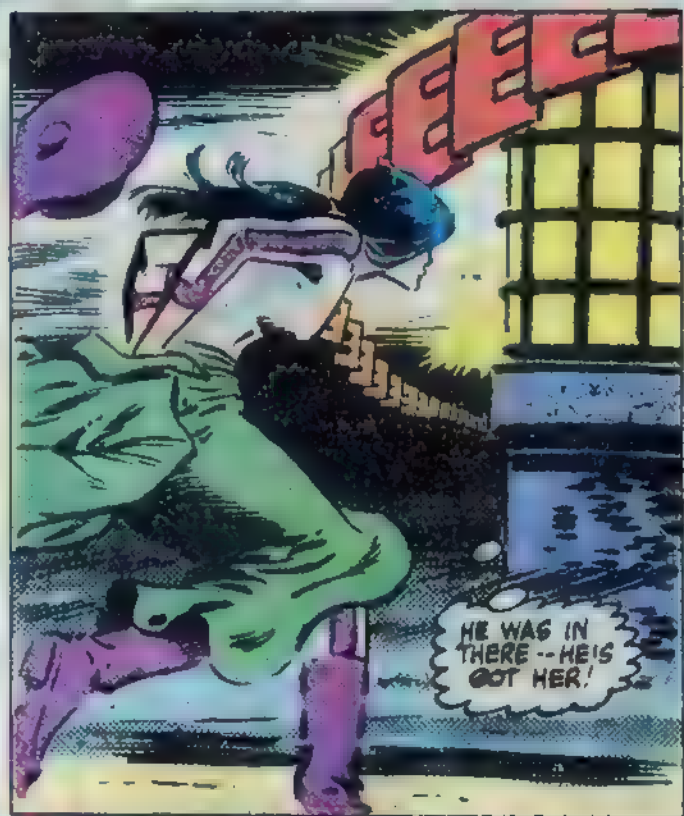


AND FU MANCHU
KNEW WHO HE
WAS.

BUT HOW--? HOW
COULD MY FATHER
HAVE KNOWN?

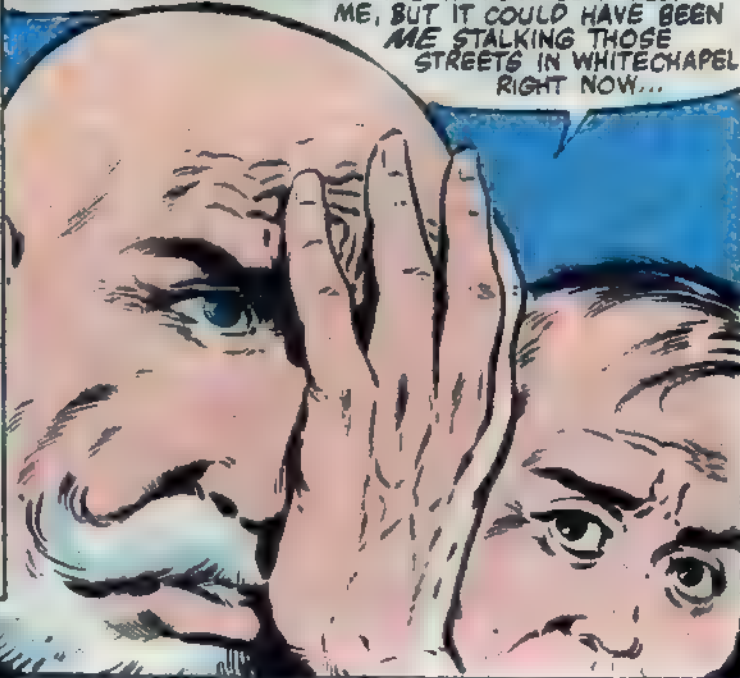
HOW DID THAT DEVIL KNOW ANY-
THING? NETWORKS OF INTERLOCKING
SECRET SOCIETIES, DEBTS RECEIVED
FROM THE LONG AND TWISTING MACHINA-
TIONS OF AN IMMORTAL'S MACHIA-
VELLIAN AFFAIRS, A LEGION OF SPIES,
POLICE OFFICIALS CORRUPTED INTO
INFORMANTS BY MONEY OR FEAR...

WHO KNOWS HOW HE KNEW? HE
KNEW. AND WE LET THE INFORMATION
SLIP RIGHT THROUGH OUR HANDS-- THE
NAME OF JACK THE RIPPER-- DISAPPEAR-
ING IN AN OLD BIPLANE GOARING INTO
THE MOON.



HE WAS IN
THERE-- HE'S
GOT HER!

AND HE ALMOST TURNED ME... ME... INTO THE PSYCHO-
LOGICAL REINCARNATION OF THE RIPPER. LORD HELP
ME, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN
ME STALKING THOSE
STREETS IN WHITECHAPEL
RIGHT NOW...





THE BOTTOM LINE, SHANG-CHI, IS THIS-- EVEN THOUGH FU HIMSELF IS PRESUMABLY DEAD AFTER THAT UNTIDY BUSINESS IN NEW YORK, HIS TIME-DELAYED EVIL LIVES ON THROUGH THE INSTIGATION OF A MODERN RIPPER BENT ON RECREATING THE SLAYINGS OF 1888.

AND LEIKO KNEW ALL THIS--? SHE KNEW ALL ALONG--?



GET AWAY FROM HER!!



YES, LAD, I TOLD HER YEARS AGO-- WHEN SHE FIRST JOINED MI-6 UNDER MY COMMAND. WHEN WE HEARD THE RECENT NEWS REPORTS, WE BOTH KNEW IT HAD TO BE THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 45 YEARS PAST...

-- THIS BULLETIN: POLICE HAVE DISCOVERED THE MUTILATED BODIES OF TWO WOMEN IN THE WHITE-CHAPEL SECTION OF LONDON...



YOU HEARD?

YES. I'M GOING TO LONDON.



SHE'S CHANGED, LAD-- PERHAPS TIRED OF BEING IN YOUR SHADOW. SHE YEARNS TO BE THE WOMAN SHE ONCE WAS, UNAFRAID TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HER OWN HANDS.



HE'S GONE NOW-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

Y-YES... HE RAN AWAY... WHEN YOU CAME...

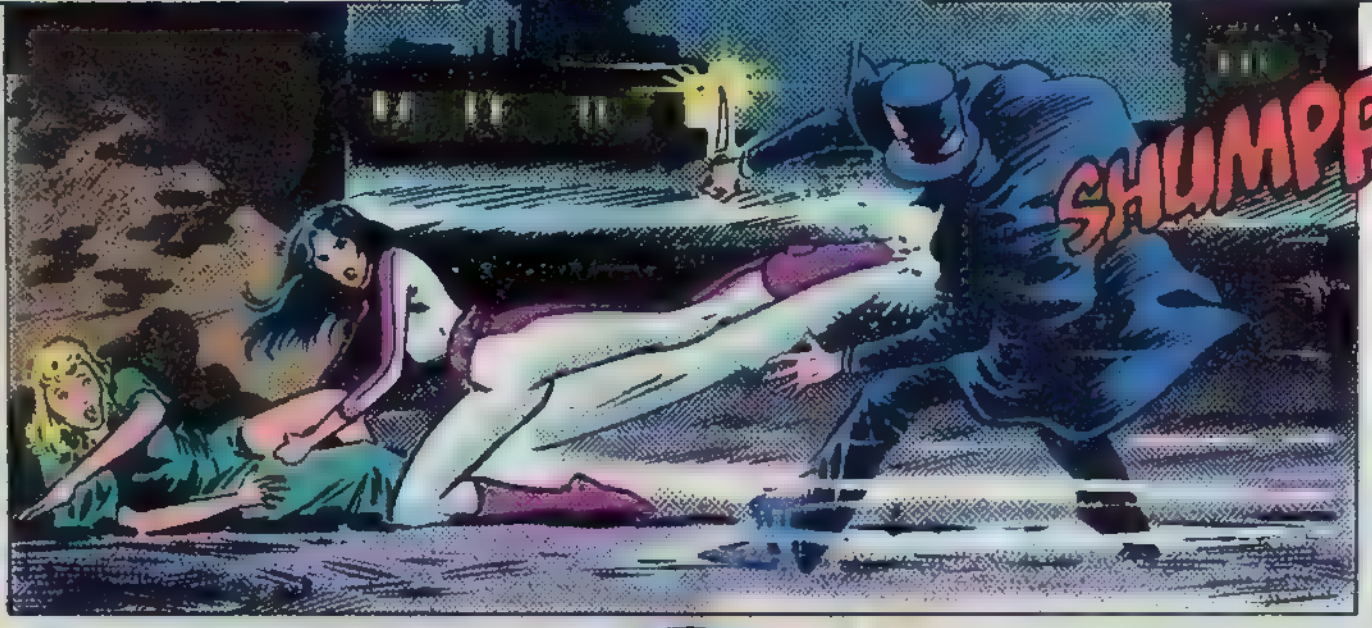


AND YOU LET HER GO--? YOU LET HER WALK RIGHT INTO IT--? SHE COULD BE KILLED, SMITH!



BUT HE... HE...

NOOOOOO



SHUMPP



COME, RESTON.

WE'RE TAKING THE HELICOPTER TO LONDON-- NOW.

VERY WELL.

"BUT LET US HOPE THE END IS FAR FROM WRITTEN..."

I'M COMING, TOO-- IF LEIKO'S LIFE IS IN DANGER, WE'VE ALREADY WASTED ENOUGH TIME.

RIGHT, MELISSA. AND DON'T EVEN TRY TO ARGUE WITH HER, CHI-- SHE'S BEEN TAKING PAGES FROM LEIKO'S BOOK.



HAI--!



"SMITH CALLED IT THE WHITECHAPEL MADNESS. I WONDER... COULD IT RELATE TO ANOTHER MADNESS...?"

"THE MADNESS FROM AN ANCIENT MYSTERY...?"



AGH-H..

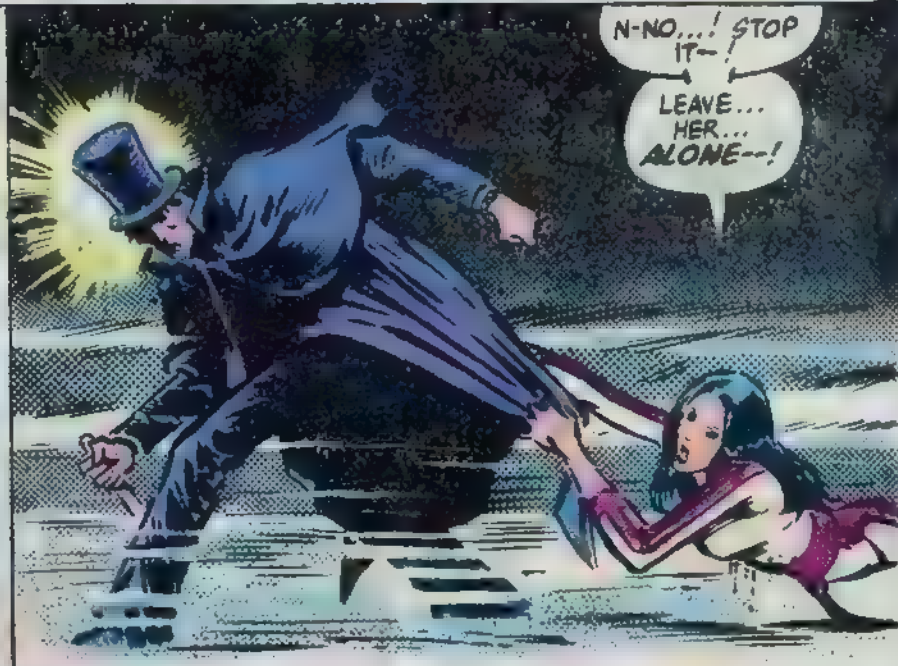


N-NO...!

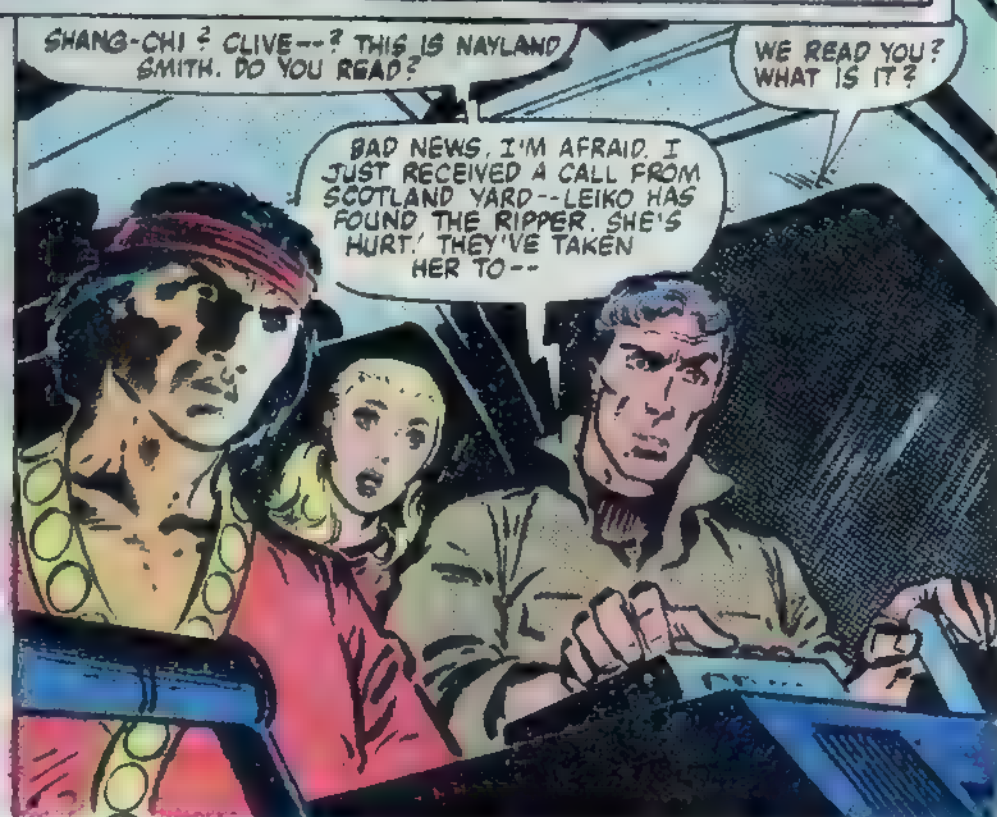
H-HELP ME... PLEASE... HELP ME...!



DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, CHI -- DARLIN' MISS WU KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. BESIDES, SHE MAY HAVE TOO MUCH SPUNK FOR HER OWN GOOD, BUT SHE'S HARDLY A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT.



N-NO...! STOP IT--!
LEAVE... HER... ALONE--!



"EAST END HOSPITAL..."

-- BE ALL RIGHT, SHANG... BUT THEY SAID I'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR SIX WEEKS... AND I ... I'LL HAVE A SCAR, SHANG...

I HAVE MANY, LEIKO. WE ALL DO.

GORRY I... I FAILED...

I KNOW YOU'RE GOING AFTER HIM, SHANG... AND I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU... BUT BE CAREFUL... VERY CAREFUL... HE'S MORE THAN A NORMAL MAN... MANIACAL STRENGTH... LIKE SOME SUPER-HUMAN MADNESS THAT CAN'T DIE...

AND HER WORDS BRING THE FULL TRUTH HOME...

I PROMISE TO ATONE! THE MADNESS WILL BE NO MORE! I WILL NEVER REST UNTIL IT IS ENDED!

I SWEAR IT!

"THE ELIXIR VITAE... PERHAPS HE NEVER WILL DIE..."

"AS WE LEAVE THE HOSPITAL ROOM, I SENSE A GROWING TENSENESS IN MELISSA GREVILLE'S EVERY MUGGLE. AT LAST SHE VOICES IT, ALL AT ONCE, IN A TUMBLE OF WORDS..."

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO CATCH HIM--I'LL BE THE DECOY NOW.

LOOK, MR. RESTON, I MAY BE JEALOUS OF BOLD, BRAVE DARLIN' LEIKO -- BUT I'M ALSO TIRED OF BEING USELESS AND I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

SO IF YOU WANT TO GO ON PROTECTING ME FROM THE BIG BAD WORLD, YOU'D JUST BETTER MAKE BLOODY WELL SURE YOU COVER ME LIKE A GLOVE!

"THE MATTER, IT SEEMS, IS SETTLED."

AND, JUST FORGET IT BEFORE I--

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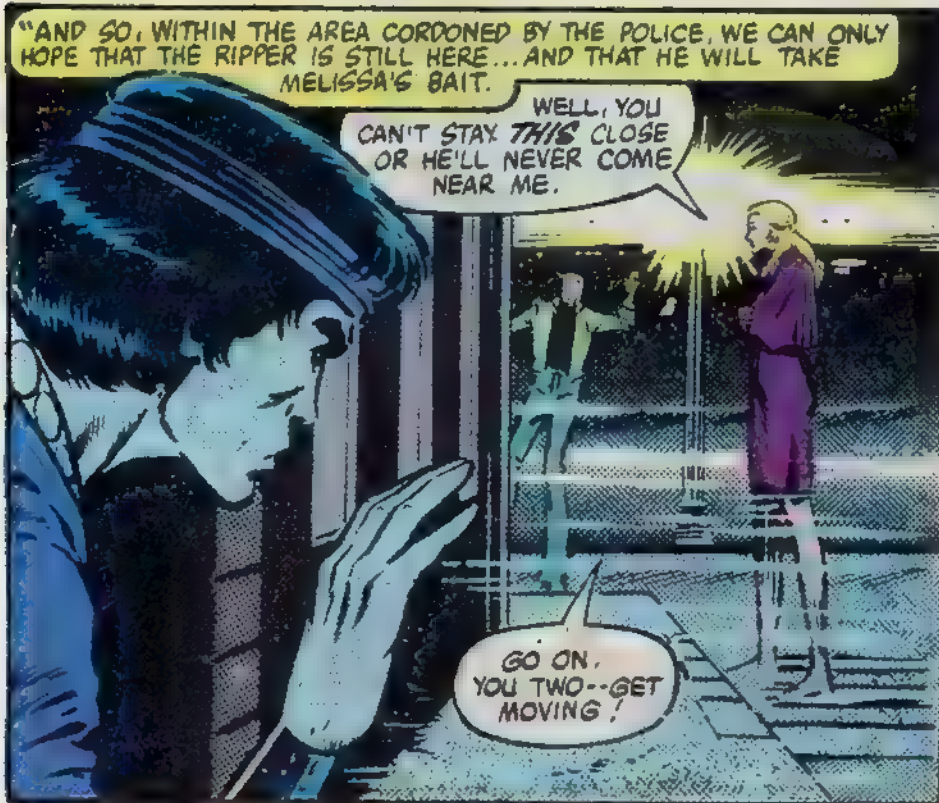
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"AND SO, WITHIN THE AREA CORDONED BY THE POLICE, WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE RIPPER IS STILL HERE...AND THAT HE WILL TAKE MELISSA'S BAIT.

WELL, YOU CAN'T STAY *THIS* CLOSE OR HE'LL NEVER COME NEAR ME.

GO ON, YOU TWO--GET MOVING!



"EVEN THOUGH SMITH IS CONVINCED THAT THE DETAILS OF RECREATING THE ORIGINAL RIPPER'S MURDERS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE MAN WILL NOT STRIKE AGAIN TONIGHT...

"AND IF NOT, WE WILL HAVE TO SEEK HIM OUT WHERE HE--



"I WAS WRONG--

"--AND MELISSA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER ALMOST IMMEDIATELY... UNLESS RESTON AND I CAN--



"NO--! NOT SI-FAN--! NOT NOW--!"

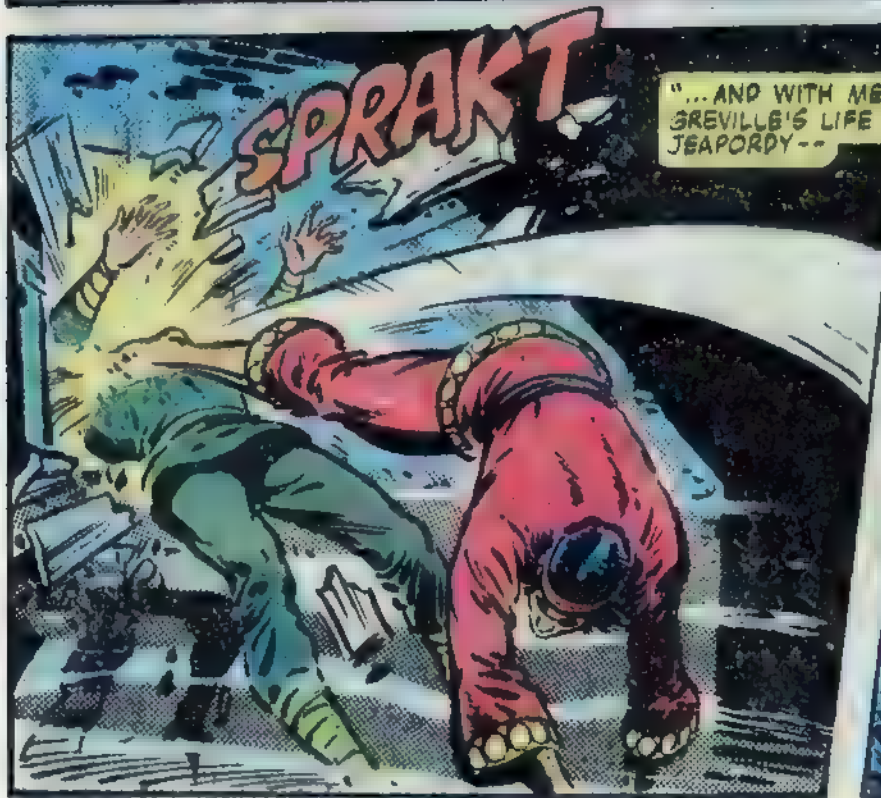
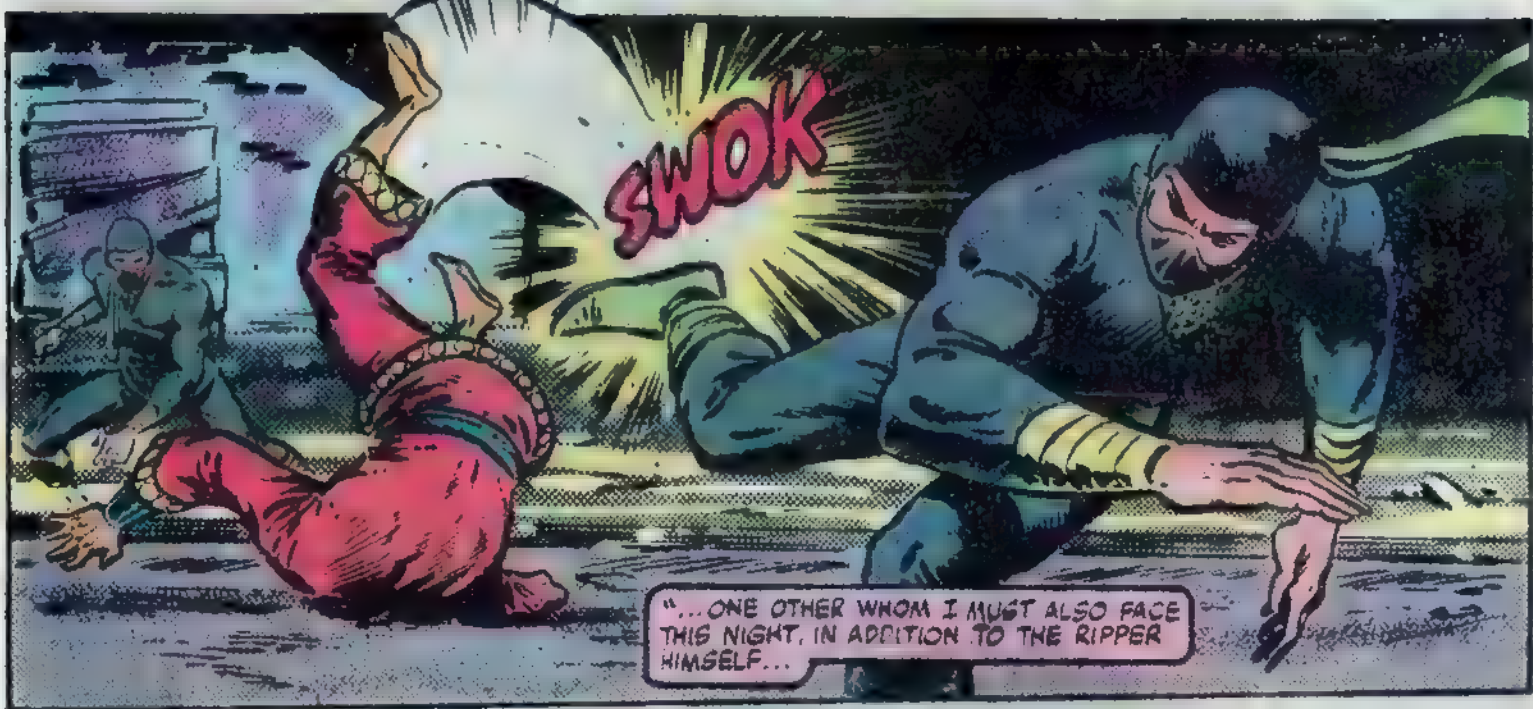
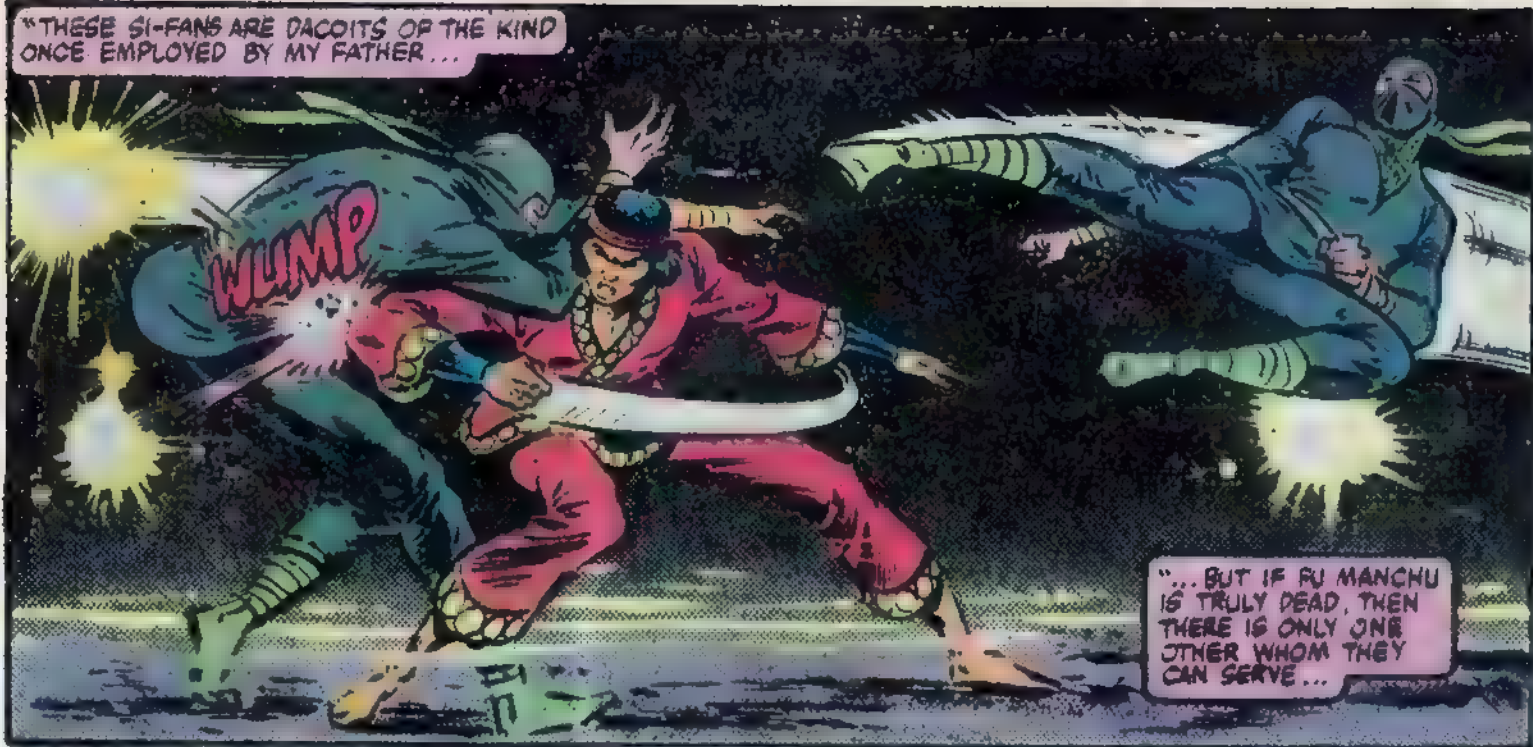
WE CANNOT LET YOU TAKE HIM, SON OF FU MANCHU. HE BELONGS TO ANOTHER.

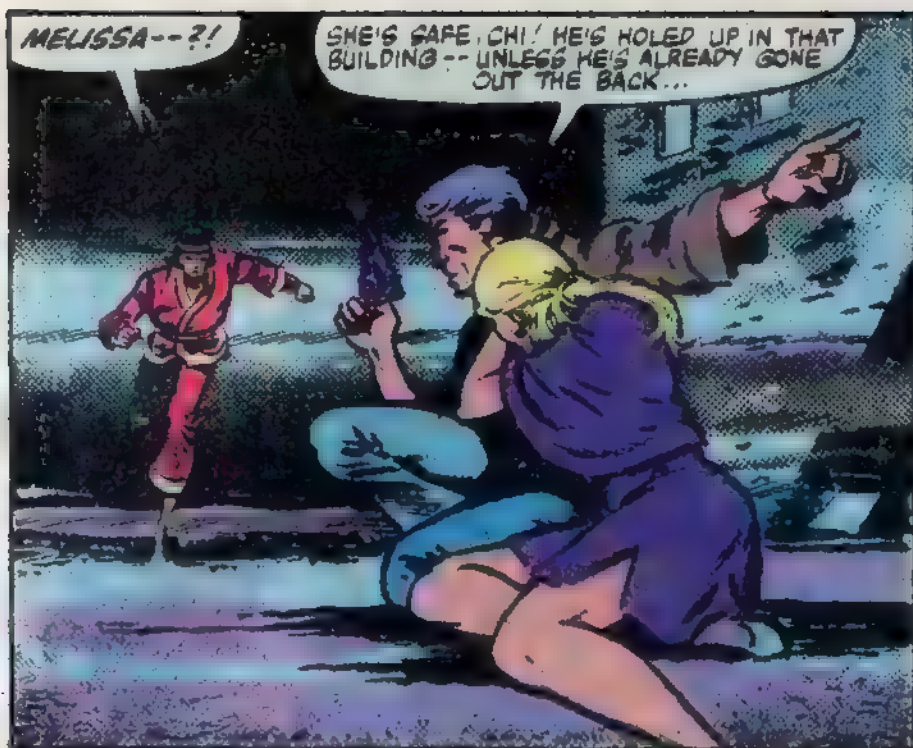
HEAR ME, SI-FAN... I HAVE MARKED THIS NIGHT AS THE END OF THE RIPPER'S CAREER--



--AND NO ONE, ASSASSIN, CAN ERASE THAT MARK!

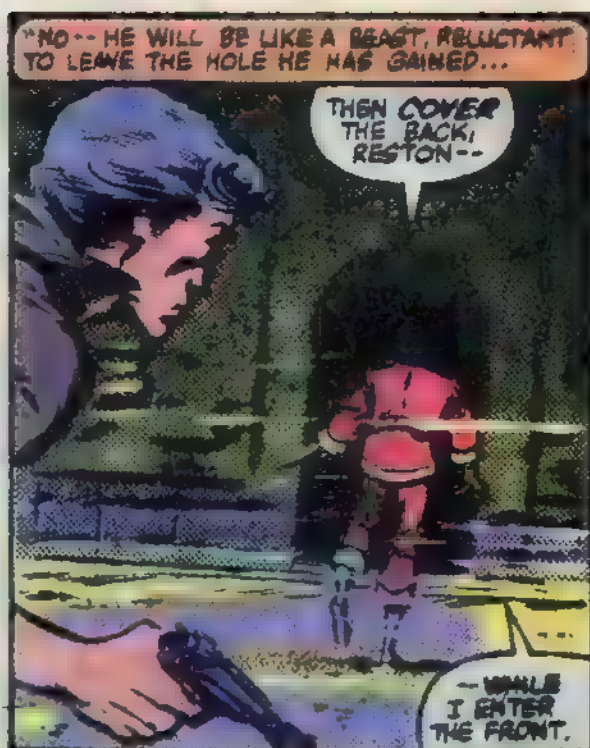
"THESE SI-FANS ARE DACOITS OF THE KIND
ONCE EMPLOYED BY MY FATHER..."





MELISSA--?!

SHE'S SAFE, CHI! HE'S HOLED UP IN THAT BUILDING-- UNLESS HE'S ALREADY GONE OUT THE BACK...



"NO-- HE WILL BE LIKE A BEAST, RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THE HOLE HE HAS GAINED...

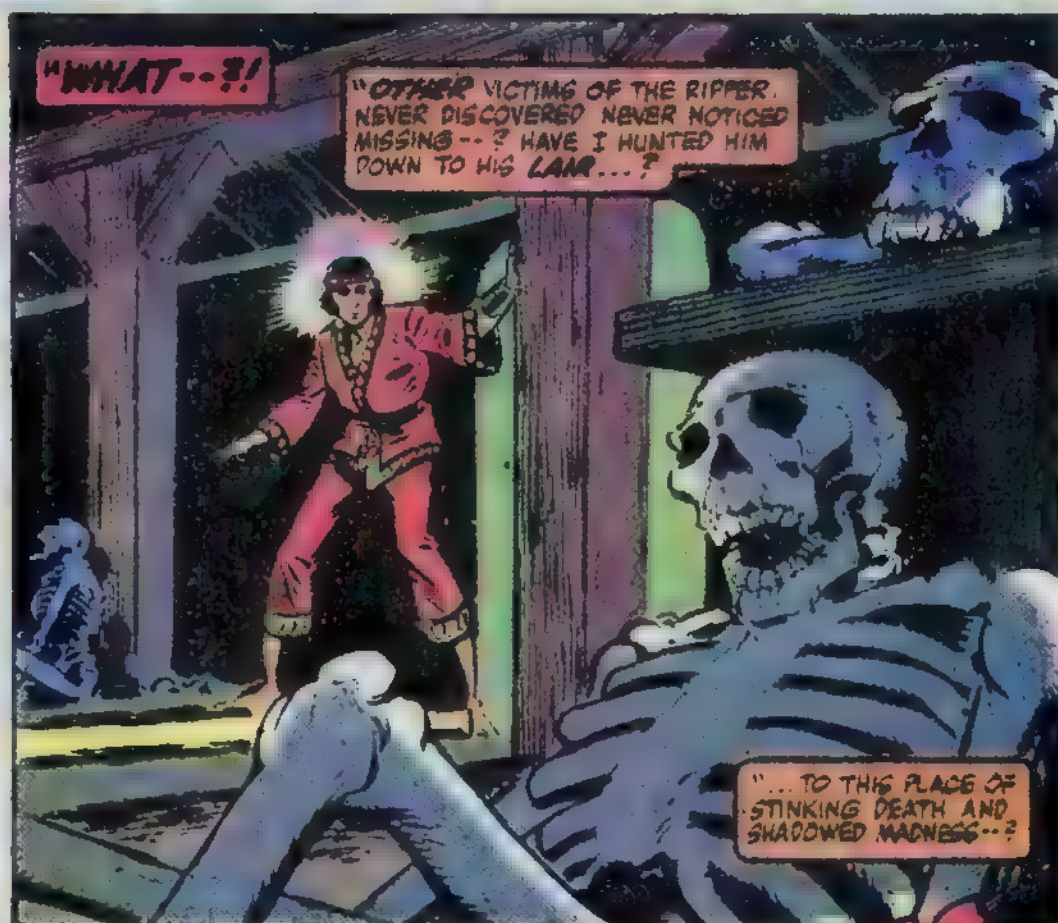
THEN COVER THE BACK, RESTON--

--WHILE I ENTER THE FRONT.



"INSIDE... THE SUBTLE SCENT OF VIOLETA CUTS THROUGH THE ODORS OF DECAY...

"YES, I WAS RIGHT... TONIGHT I WILL ONCE AGAIN MEET--



"WHAT--?!"

"OTHER VICTIM OF THE RIPPER. NEVER DISCOVERED NEVER NOTICED MISSING--? HAVE I HUNTED HIM DOWN TO HIS LAIR...?"

"... TO THIS PLACE OF STINKING DEATH AND SHADOWED MADNESS--?"

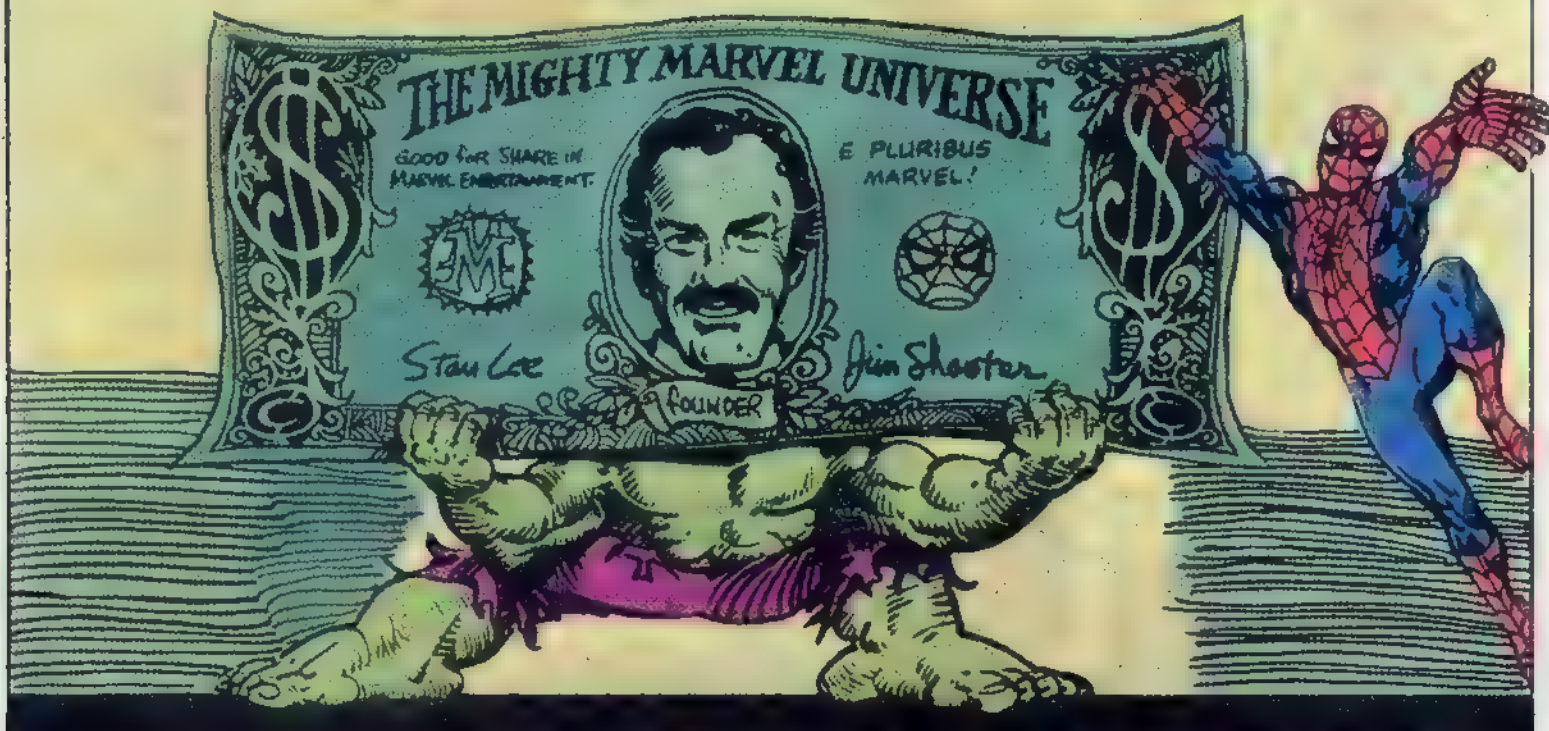


WAAAAAAA

"YES!"

HEY! LOOK WHO WON SOME BIG BUCKS!

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE MIGHTY MARVEL WIN-YOURSELF SOME-BIG-BUCKS CONTEST!



Question No. 1: "WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL SUPER HERO, AND WHY?" (Ages 10 and under)

Question No. 2: "WHO IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE MARVEL CHARACTER, AND WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE HIM OR HER?" (Ages 11-14)

Question No. 3: "HOW SHOULD THE MARVEL UNIVERSE CHANGE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES?" (Ages 15 and older)

FIRST PRIZE: \$2,500 CASH!
LISA KOTT, Age 9
 Mexia, Texas
MY HERO

Hulk is mighty mean.
 When his anger rises, he turns green.
 I think Hulk is incredibly neat.
 Especially when he stomps those feet.

FIRST PRIZE: \$2,500 CASH!
HEARN JAE CHO, Age 14
 Akron, Ohio

In all Marvel-dom, one falls in my disfavor. Sub-Mariner should learn to control his emotions and pride, inasmuch as tantrums don't befit monarchs of Atlantis.

FIRST PRIZE: \$2,500 CASH!
ANDY BAUER, Age 19
 Georgetown, Ind.

Nurture the child in each of us. We all mature, change, take on new responsibilities and obtain greater knowledge; but do not let us lose our curiosity, open-mindedness and faith in others. Help us live naturally and spontaneously in today's civilized world. Let us continue to dream.

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000 CASH!
DALE BREWSTER, Age 10
 St. Petersburg, Fla.

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000 CASH!
LONNIE JUDD, Age 12
 Hewitt, Texas

SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000 CASH!
JAMES WOMACK, Age 30
 Tuscon, Az.

THIRD PRIZE: \$500 CASH!
SCOTT FRANKOS, Age 11
 Canoga Park, Ca.

THIRD PRIZE: \$500 CASH!
STEVEN LEWIS, Age 14
 Skokie, Il.

THIRD PRIZE: \$500 CASH!
DONALD VINCENT, Age 22
 Holyoke, Mass.

Let's have a hearty chorus of Congratulations for the above named Big Buck winners and also for the...

100 FOURTH PRIZE WINNERS of a copy of the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, autographed by Smilin' Stan Himself!

And leave us not forget the...

250 FIFTH PRIZE WINNERS of free ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Marvel Mag of their choice!

And to show our appreciation to all you dedicated Marvelites who cared enough to take the time to write us your heartfelt feelings about our comics — which, let's face it, are as much yours as ours — we're gonna print the name and hometown of every single contest entrant!

So ya see, everyone's a winner — and especially us! 'Cause we've got the most terrific, most caring fans in the world!

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**They're Fun! They show how much you care!
And they really work!**

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and help your parents quit smoking!

- 20 clever stickers for every part of the house.
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- Read what these satisfied customers say:

After my science teacher showed pictures of cancerous lungs I just had to get my dad to quit smoking. A week after I put up your stickers he quit for good. Now he can't thank me enough. *Damon Loker 11*

When I came home and found my kids had put your stickers up around the house I was so moved I began to cry. I never dreamed how much they worried about my smoking. Thanks to my kids love and your product I was able to stop. *Mrs. Phyllis Bodian 36*

The decals paid for themselves in less than a month. Both my parents quit smoking and then raised my allowance with the cigarette money they saved. *Richard Bizzo 9*

My mom used to smoke two packs a day. I was so afraid she'd get sick and leave me all alone. Your decals helped me tell her how I felt. Since then she hasn't had another cigarette. *Rachel Kleinman 13*

Only \$2.95! They're fun and easy to use! Just peel off the backs and stick 'em up! Act now—before they light up another one!

Box 322 Lenox Hill Sta., N.Y., N.Y. 10021



ONLY \$2.95

**MONEY-BACK
GUARANTEE**

**PRECISE DECALS, Dept. MC-1
Box 322 Lenox Hill Sta., N.Y., N.Y. 10021**

I want to show my love and care for my parents, about their smoking and help them quit. I will pay \$2.95 plus 30c postage & handling (\$3.25). Please rush me my package of 20 decals immediately. *Age 11*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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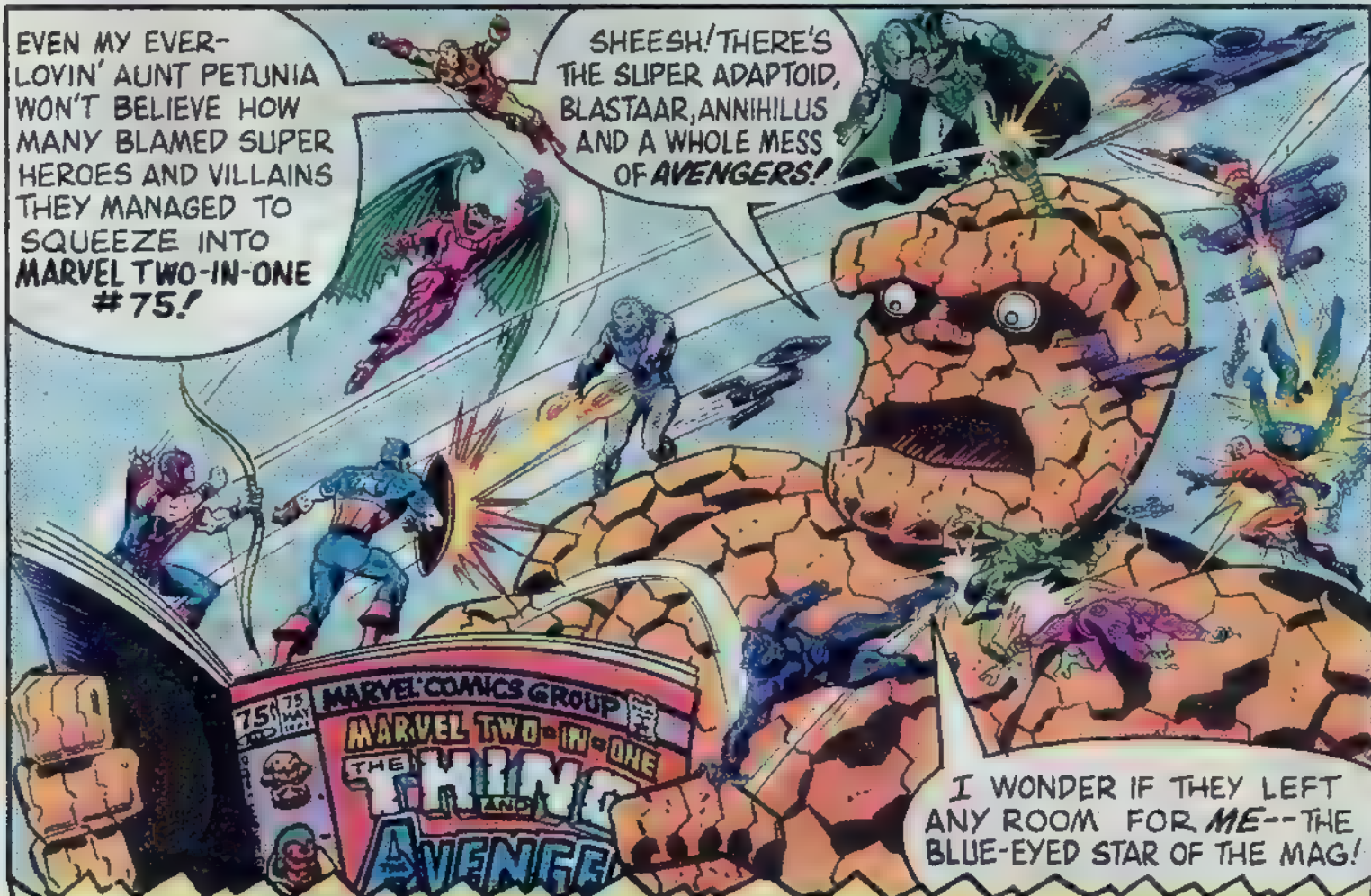
Guarantee: If not satisfied return your package for a full refund.

EVEN MY EVER-
LOVIN' AUNT PETUNIA
WON'T BELIEVE HOW
MANY BLAMED SUPER
HEROES AND VILLAINS
THEY MANAGED TO
SQUEEZE INTO
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE
#75!

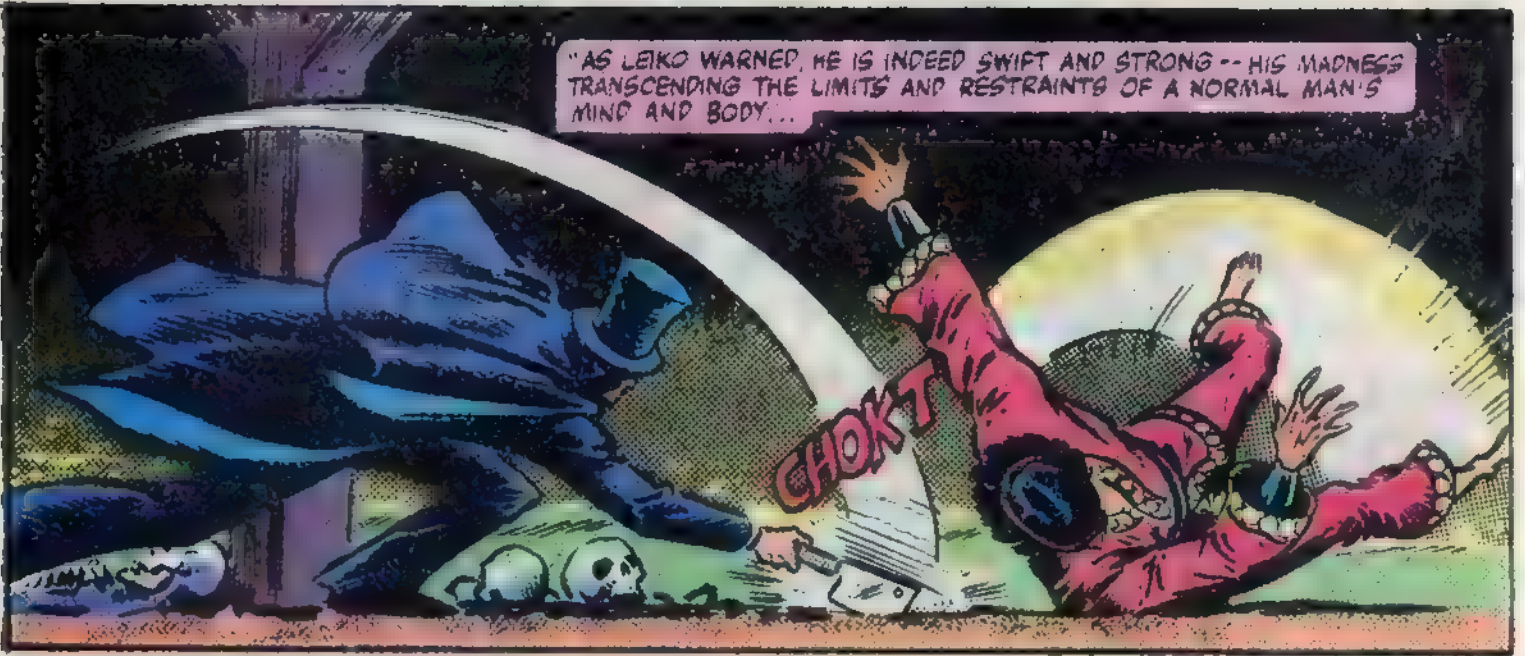
SHEESH! THERE'S
THE SLIPPER ADAPTOID,
BLASTAAR, ANNIHILUS
AND A WHOLE MESS
OF AVENGERS!

I WONDER IF THEY LEFT
ANY ROOM FOR ME--THE
BLUE-EYED STAR OF THE MAG!

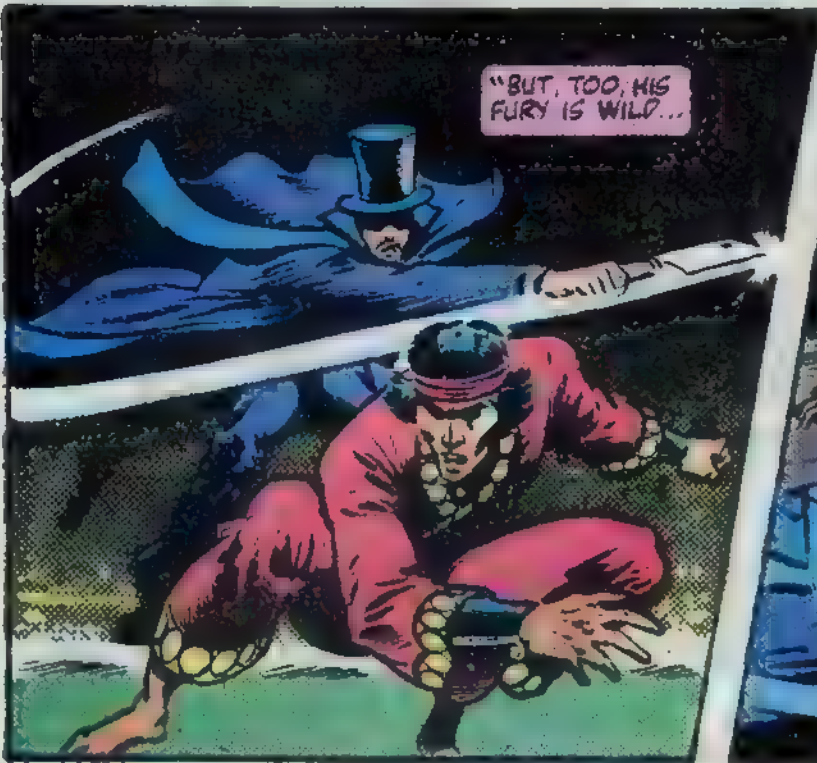
**YOU BET WE DID! IT'S ALL ON SALE NOW IN A SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED
75¢ EDITION OF MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE*75 DON'T MISS IT!**



"AS LEIKO WARNED, HE IS INDEED SWIFT AND STRONG -- HIS MADNESS TRANSCENDING THE LIMITS AND RESTRAINTS OF A NORMAL MAN'S MIND AND BODY..."



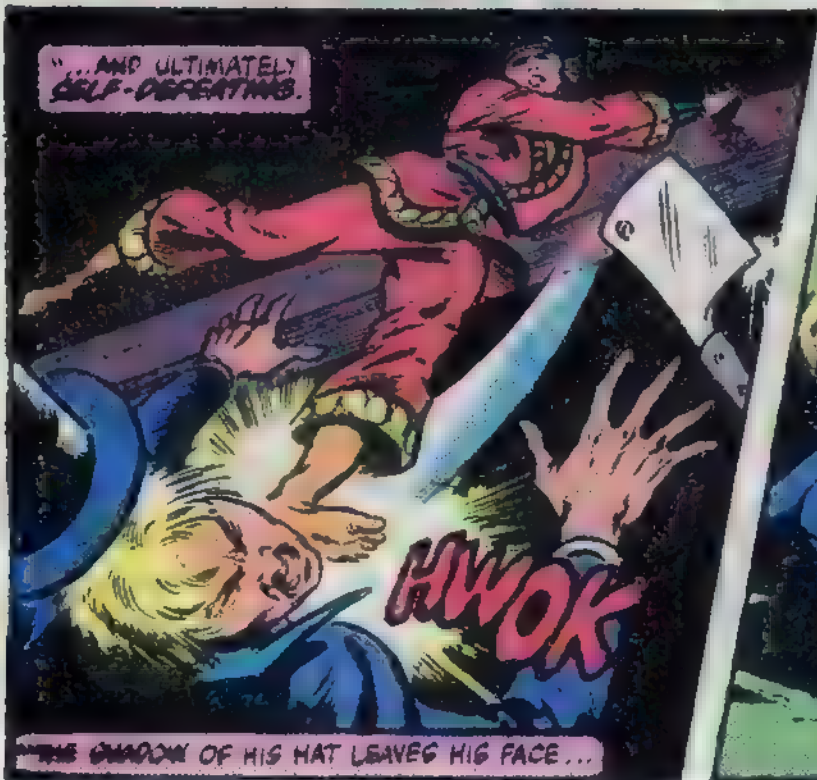
"BUT, TOO, HIS FURY IS WILD..."



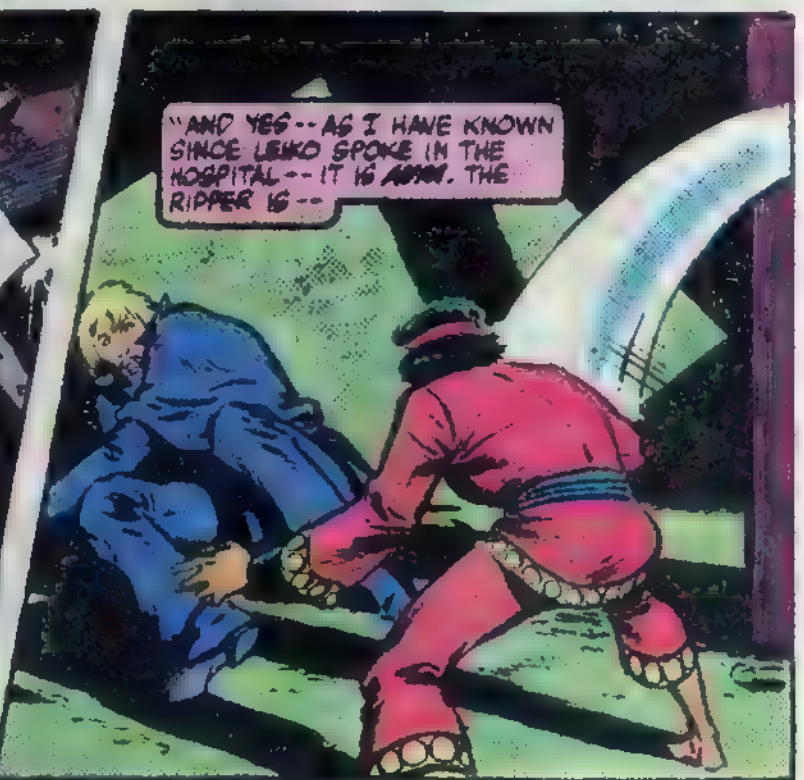
"...UNCONTROLLED..."



"...AND ULTIMATELY SELF-DEFEATING."



"AND YES -- AS I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LEIKO SPOKE IN THE HOSPITAL -- IT IS ~~ADAM~~. THE RIPPER IS --"



HWOK

"THE SHADOW OF HIS HAT LEAVES HIS FACE..."

AS YOU SWIFTLY AGED,
AND ALMOST DIED,
MY SISTER.

YES... BUT NOW I HAVE MY *OWN* SUPPLY OF
THE ELIXIR, BROTHER-- ENOUGH TIME TO
LIVE AND ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...

... PERHAPS EVEN
THE RESTORATION OF
THIS PITIFUL CREATURE
TO NORMAL.

HE HAS WANDERED THE WORLD ALL
THESE YEARS, IMMORTAL, A PLAGUE ON
WOMEN WHEREVER HE WENT, AND NOW
HE HAS FOUND HIS WAY "HOME" TO
WHITECHAPEL, WHERE HE HAD BEGUN
RECREATING THE ORIGINAL RIPPER
MURDERS IN A FINAL
PURGE OF BLOOD.

I HAVE TRACKED HIM, OFF AND ON,
WHENEVER I HEARD OF A NEW
SERIES OF MURDERS. NOW, WITH
THE RESOURCES OF THE NEW
LEADERS OF MI-6 WHOM I HELPED
INSTALL, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
TRACK HIM HERE TO HIS LAIR.

SHOULD I FAIL TO RESTORE HIS
SANITY, I WILL ALLOW HIM TO AGE
AND DIE... THE NATURAL WAY. AFTER
THE ATROCITY COMMITTED UPON
HIM-- UPON HIS MIND AND FLESH
AND SPIRIT-- HE DESERVES AT
LEAST THAT MUCH.

SURRENDER
HIM TO ME,
BROTHER...

NO, FAN LO SUEE. YOU LOST YOUR
LOVE TO OUR FATHER AND I AM
SORRY FOR YOU, BUT YOUR LOVER
HAS BECOME A MONSTER WHO
HAS ALMOST CAUSED ME TO
LOSE MY LOVE.

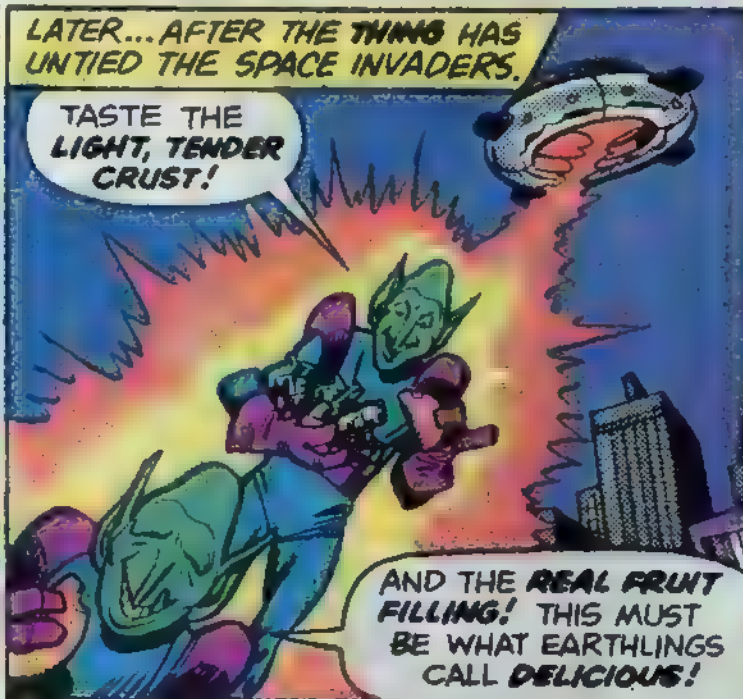
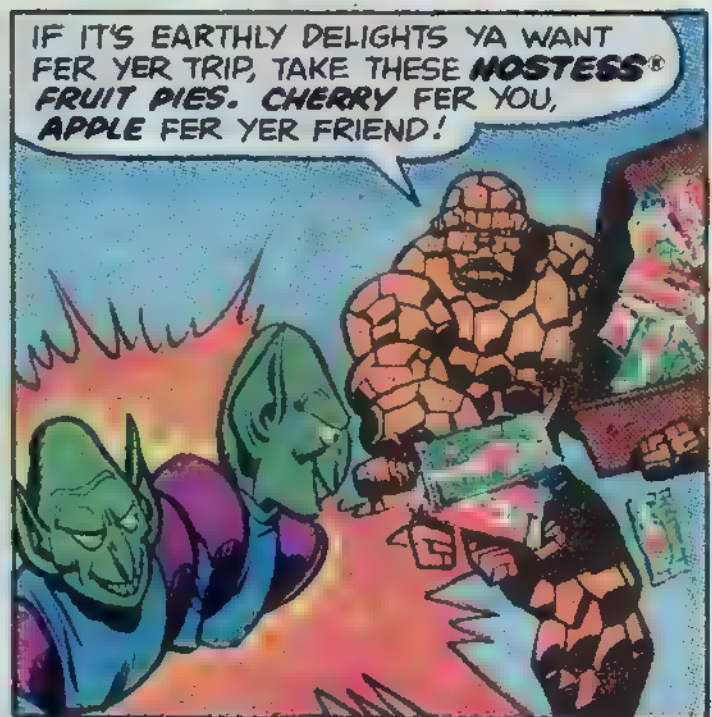
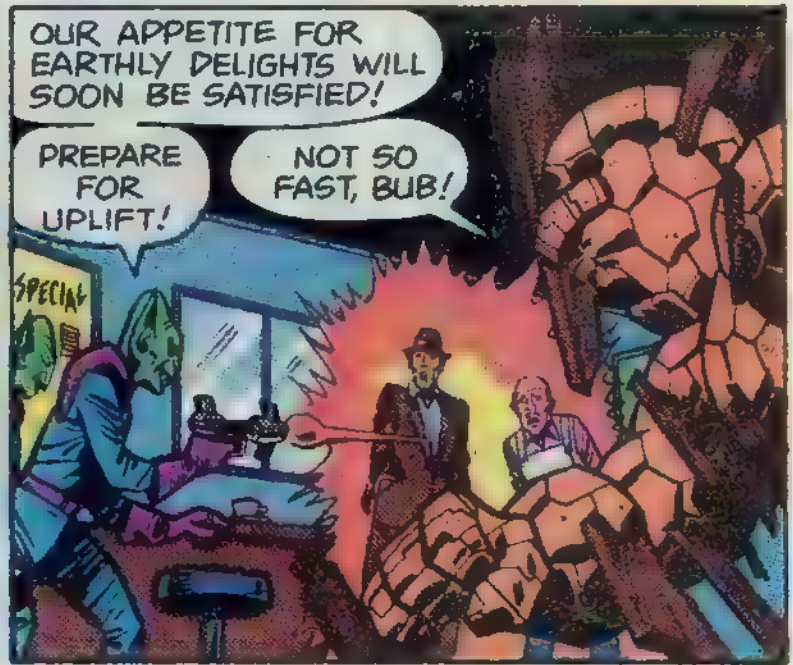
I CANNOT LET HIM
GO WHILE THERE
IS A CHANCE
THAT HE WILL
STRIKE AT
OTHERS
AS HE HAS
STRUCK AT
LEIKO.

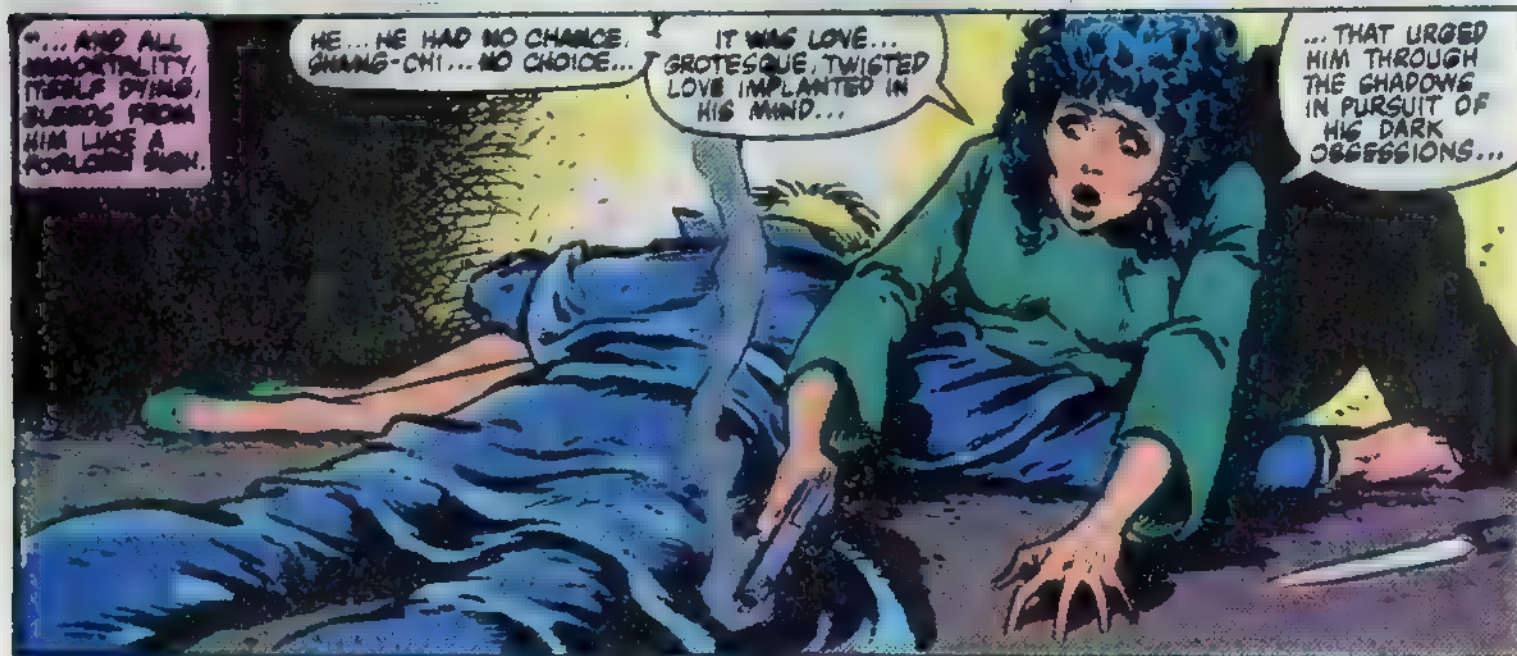
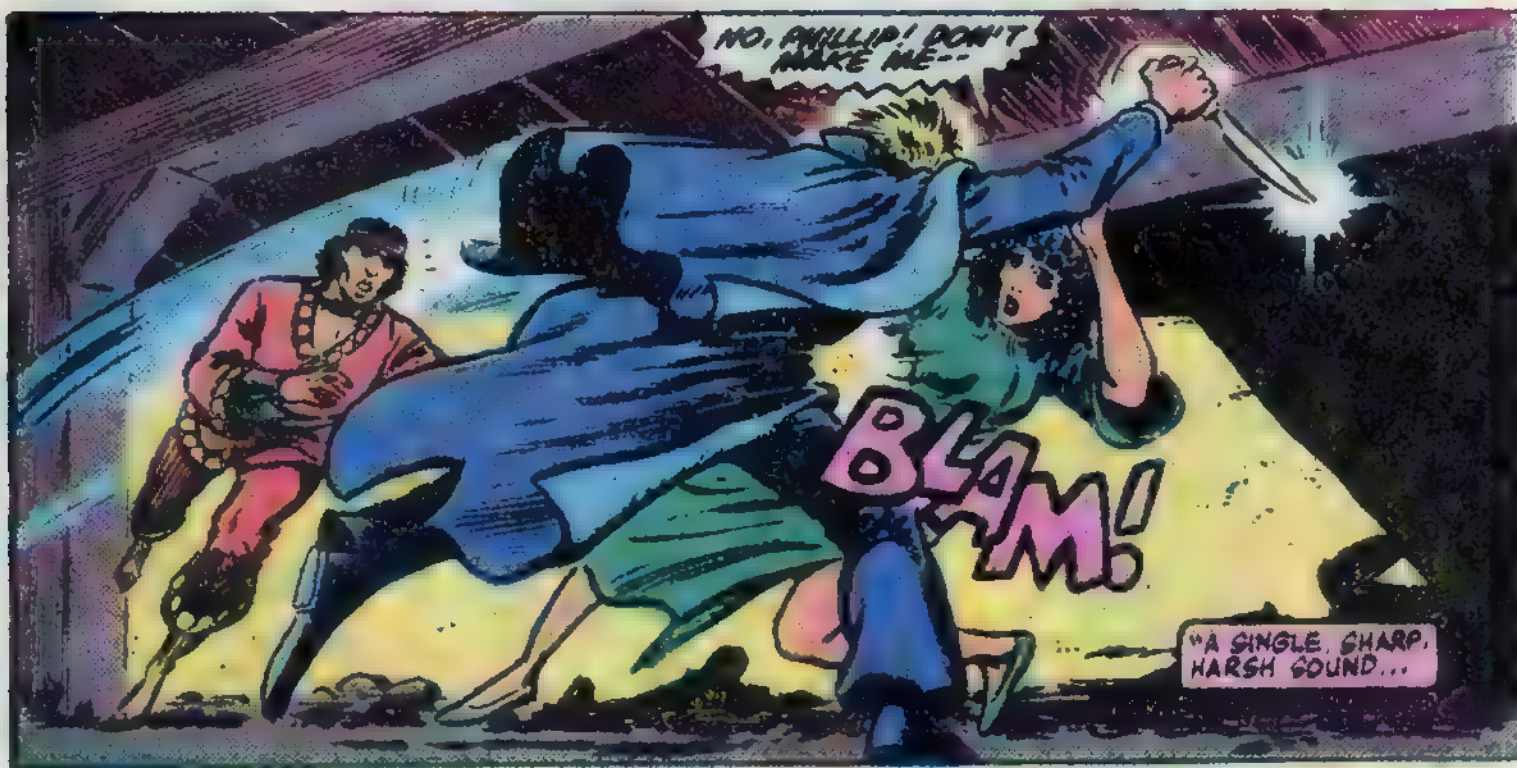
BUT CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S *MAD*--?! HE'S
HELPLESS! I LOVED HIM, SHANG-CHI--
LOVED HIM AS I HAVE LOVED ONLY
ONE OTHER IN MY LONG LIFE!

LET ME
TRY TO
*BRING
HIM
BACK!*

"BLOOD SMEARS HIS
MOUTH AND HANDS..."

THE THING in "EARTHLY DELIGHTS"





AND IT WAS OUR FATHER'S OWN TWISTED LOVE THAT DID THIS TO ME--TOOK PHILLIP AWAY FOREVER. YOU SEE, FU MANCHU TRIED TO REGAIN MY LOVE FOR HIM BY DENYING MY LOVE FOR ANOTHER...

IT ONLY MADE ME DESPISE HIM ALL THE MORE.

YET, IN A WAY, IT WAS ALL MY OWN FAULT. IF I HAD NOT FREED HIM BEFORE FU MANCHU COULD FULLY CONDITION HIM, THE SLAYINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO OUR FATHER'S WARS...

AND WOULD HAVE BEEN NO LESS EVIL, FAH LO GUEE.

YES... YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, MY BROTHER...

GIVE MY THOUGHTS TO NAYLAND SMITH... TELL HIM... TELL HIM I REMEMBER... TELL HIM I'M SORRY... TELL HIM I LAMENT THE LOSS OF OUR MOUNTAIN ABOVE THE VALLEY AND UNDER THE MOON...

AND, MY BROTHER, TO YOU I CAN ONLY SAY... I HOPE YOU TRULY SUCCEEDED LAST TIME... IN KILLING THE MAN WHO HAS CURSED US BY BEING A FATHER.

"AND, LIKE A SLEEK ANIMAL WHICH HAS HAUNTED THE WOODS SINCE TIME'S DIM BEGINNING, RED OF FANG AND CLAW, WITH ALL LOVE LOST, MY SISTER FAH LO GUEE TURNING INTO THE SHADOWS...

"...AND IS GONE, WITHOUT A SOUND."

NEXT:

THE SEQUEL TO ONE OF THE MOST ACCLAIMED SHANG-CHI SAGAS OF ALL--

NOT SMOKE, NOR BEADS, NOR BLOOD...

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

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575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

CREDITS, TITLE, FADE-OUT...

Quandary & solution: Seeing as how Gene Day did such an elegantly lavish job on this issue's splash page, we just couldn't bear to cut into it for a fully detailed breakdown of art credits, so we might as well rectify the matter for all you art freaks right here and now— but bear with us, 'cause it gets a mite complicated (and just to confuse the situation even more, we'll be referring to the actual story-page numbers, so you'll have to count 'em off between the ads for yourself)...

First, Gene Day penciled and inked pages 1-16 ("The Immortal Caravan"). Then, Mike Zeck penciled and inked pages 17-36 ("The Ancient Mystery" and "The Whitechapel Madness"). Simple enough so far, right? Ah, but now we come to those aforementioned "exceptions"...

During the period in which Mike was penciling "The Whitechapel Madness," it seems his Connecticut apartment served as a temporary haven for fellow Floridian artists Bob McLeod and John Beatty. One night the three lads, or so the story goes, decided to pass some time with a little round-robin bits & pieces inking session, simultaneously lightening Gene Day's load a trifle in the process. Now...blamed if we're gonna break it all down into precise and specific brush-strokes, but the three (Mike, John, and Bob) are somehow responsible in tandem for: All of page 31, panels 3 & 5 of page 32, all of page 36, panel 2 of page 38, and the major (foreground) figures in the last panel of the last page...

Wow!

...leaving poor me all alone with my brand-spanking-new type-setter to cart out the whole furehugginner magillia!

Anyway, that takes care of the credits (for this issue). Onward to the title (of #96)...

Dear Doug,

One of the drawbacks to producing a feat of creation like MASTER OF KUNG FU must be the sheer exhaustion of having to do it on a monthly basis. Seldom, however, has the giddiness of late-night plotting sessions been so evident as in the title for issue #96...

I can see it all now. A dim light bulb, Doug alone, defeated, desperate at the typewriter. Creatively burned-out. What to do this month—? He racks his brains. He needs something, a handle, just the germ of an idea...anything will do.

She stares at his silent typewriter, at the perversely blank white paper sitting primly on the roll, waiting. In despair he rips it out— and the carbon falls away. He stoops to pick it up...and his eyes fall upon the logo labeling: "Carter's Super Midnight."

And there's the challenge. Make a story out of that! And of course, Doug, you *did* make quite a story out of it; but then, MOKF hasn't missed a beat in nearly three years now, so what else would one expect?

I didn't like the monochromatic cover, though. Marvel seems to be experimenting with these lately (I remember a red-hued FF cover from several months back), but they don't seem to work. This one on MOKF *might* have worked, if you'd only included the title on the cover (the reference to midnight would have explained the use of dark blues)— but you didn't, and the effect came off as gratuitous. No cross words here; just a friendly word-in-the-ear. After all, I like MOKF partially due to its attitude toward experimentation, so I can hardly complain on the rare occasion when such experimentation backfires.

Nothing else of real merit to say; my annual in-depth LOC was printed only last issue. I still think MOKF is the most elegant series currently running...but I just might cringe a bit if you were to come up with a new story for next issue entitled "Smith-Corona 2200." (A time-travel story, perhaps, dealing with a female descendant of Sir Denis, who marries a chap named Corona 220 years from now...Lord, now you've got me doing it!)

Bob Rodi
34 Chatham Lane
Oak Brook, IL 60521

All right, so you hit bingo on the title, Bob— breaking your once-a-year-LOC rule in the process, no less!— but you're dead wrong on the background reconstruction, Sherlock. Far from it being a case of midnight oiled burn-out desperation, I had been itching to use "Carter's Super Midnight" as a title for ages— every time I reached into the tray for a fresh sheet of carbon paper imprinted with that title by its manufacturer. In fact, a note-scrap bearing the words "Carter's Super Midnight" and "The Darkfield Illumination" (the latter a term for special— infra-red?— photography, and which eventually became the title of a FANTASTIC

FOUR story) had been floating around my desk for months. Then, when I was one day telling editor Jim Salicrup about plans for a "lighter" issue of MOKF— one featuring a new black character who would at time use jive-speak as part of a cover ID— the title suddenly and finally clicked into place.

But don't worry about it happening again; I ran out of "Super Midnight" weeks ago and am now using something called "Girl Friday Solvent Film."

Sayy...wait a minute...on second thought...

Nah.

Time for an aside (and why not, since this entire lettercol is swiftly turning into one gigantic aside itself?): Since we're on the subject of titles, we thought we'd pass along a bizarre little item pertaining to issue #96. You'll recall the issue featured a kinda special (well, we thought it was special, anyway) tale called "Lost Art." Shortly after I finished scripting it, I received a call from Jim Salicrup which went something like this: "Doug, seeing as how you're obsessed with synchronicities, I thought you'd appreciate the latest news— we just lost the art to 'Lost Art.'"

I replied, "It figures," without missing a beat. "What else did you expect?"

Luckily, diligent Sal and assistant Bob Budiansky had made copies of the lost art pages, which were inked and printed without any loss of quality. Ah, well, art is at its best when it exists— in a non-material form— for its own sake, no?

And that wraps up the titles, bringing us to —

— the fade-out: Next issue will be the last regular Shang-Chi story penciled by Mike Zeck. He decided to exit in style, however, and helped me co-plot a nifty sequel (or at least a follow-up) to "Smoke, Beads, and Blood" from several years back. The basic idea to do a follow-up, in fact, was Mike's.

But not to worry; Mike is hardly severing all ties with Shang-Chi and Crew. Indeed not. Plans have already been discussed with Lynn Graeme and Ralph Macchio to team Mike and me for a special 20-25 page Shang-Chi tale to be featured in the pages of our upcoming spiffy-slick MARVEL UNIVERSE book. Mike wants, in his own words, "To do something I can really be proud of— use the story to advance, to improve my work as much as possible in a single quantum jump." Accordingly, he'll not only pencil the tale, but ink and color it as well. It should be worth looking for...

In the meantime, we're not exactly planning to print blank pages in this book, and MOKF's new artist (as of #102), is a fellow who's fairly bustin' with enthusiasm for the characters, concept, and mood of the series. He's also the one guy who can maintain that vital link with visual consistency. His name? Gene Day, of course. He and I have already discussed future plans and one of Gene's first full-fledged efforts (penciling and inking) will be another rather "special" story— set in Hong Kong and called "A City Awa." For a preview of the freshly innovative sequential layouts you can expect from Gene, just check out (once again) the first 16 pages of this very issue...

Finally, don't forget next issue: "Not Smoke, Nor Beads, Nor Blood..." And don't worry; next issue will also feature the return of a normal letters page— i.e. one with more than a single letter. See you then, and—

— fade-out...

Doug Moench





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